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JOHN BULL

Vol. XIV. No. 347. SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1913. ONE PENNY

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

For meaning of this No. see Page III. of Cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

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A WEEK FOR LIFE

A FOOTBALL PENSION PRIZE
—THAT—

CAN BE WON

See page 133.

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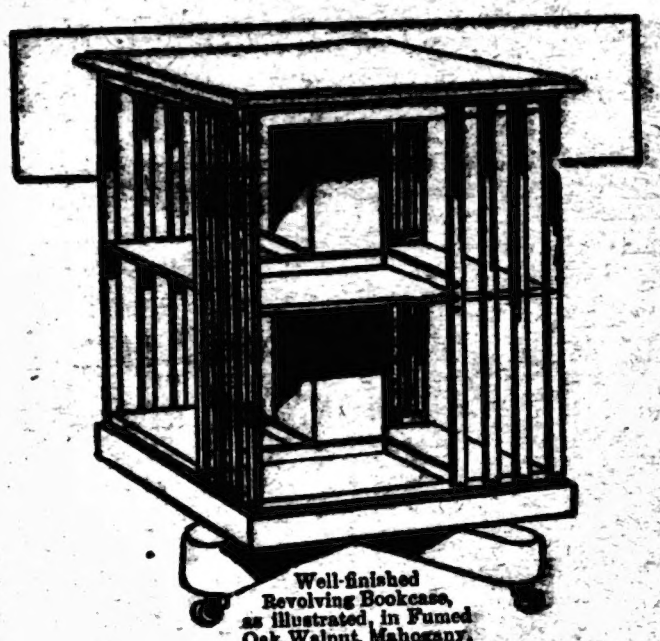

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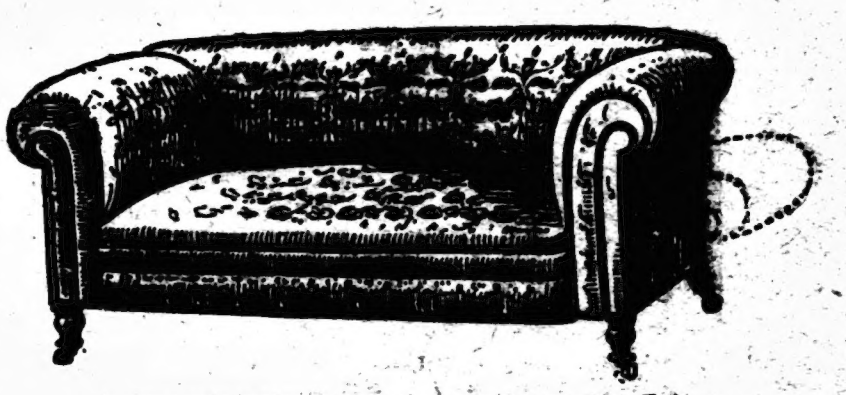

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Vol. XIV. No. 347. Week ending Saturday, January 25th, 1913. One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters. All **FINANCIAL, INSURANCE** *and* **SPORTING** *enquiries should be addressed to the* **CITY OFFICES, 52, NEW BROAD STREET, E.C.** *All other communications should be addressed to* **93, LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.**

£10 REWARD.

Wanted, the Copy of "John Bull" for JANUARY 18th, 1913, bearing on its Cover the Number 704,402.

Apply THE MANAGER, "JOHN BULL," 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.

The John Bull League.

The President,

HORATIO BOTTOMLEY,

WILL ADDRESS A PUBLIC MEETING

AT THE BIRMINGHAM TOWN HALL,

On Thursday, 30th January.

Doors open 7 p.m. **ADMISSION FREE.** Chair to be taken at 8 p.m.
ORGAN RECITAL, 7.10 to 8 p.m.

Tickets may be obtained from the Local Secretary, Mr. Norman Owen, The Primroses, Four Oaks, Birmingham, or from the General Secretary, John Bull League, 93, Long Acre, London, W.C., upon receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.

Admission to the Hall at 7 30 p.m. can be obtained upon the production of a copy of "John Bull."

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

"The Hooded M.P."

It is a strange world. Many of our readers are appealing to us to "let the poor devil off," and to "think what he has suffered." It does not occur to them that their own interests, and those of their families, are at present in the hands of a man not only unfit to legislate for a great nation, but, equally, to associate with decent individuals. We are sorry for the wretch. He has paid heavily for his depravity, and his life at present must be a hell upon earth. It is contrary to our nature to torture any living thing—even such a thing as this M.P., whilst it is a very thankless task to have to take up such a case. And influences have been brought to bear upon us which we cannot altogether disregard. We still have a warm place in our hearts for the House of Commons, whose reputation and dignity, it is urged, are sorely imperilled. And so we have decided to give the culprit a chance—but our terms are unalterable. He must at the earliest opportunity, and in any case not later than the next General Election, leave the House—*and in the meantime he must lead a clean life.* Thus, and thus only, may his identity remain unrevealed, so far as the public are concerned. R.S.V.P.

A Rum Appointment.

The appointment of Sir Sydney Olivier—Governor of Jamaica—as Permanent Secretary to the Board of Agriculture (Board, forsooth!) is "peculiar." That a man possessed of such impracticable ideas should be appointed permanent chief of what should be one of the most severely practical and businesslike of Government departments strikes us as manifestly absurd, and the fact that he has, in the words of Mr. Runciman, "observed faithfully for thirty years the traditions of the Civil Service," makes a far from favourable impression upon us. We know those traditions of the Civil Service! We would as soon see Sir Sydney's brother, who for some years served in the humble capacity of curate in Dorking Parish Church, appointed to the post. He at least has some knowledge of English agricultural life, and does not suffer under the disadvantage of being imbued with the traditions of the Civil Service. Is it that Mr. Runciman is anxious to have as permanent chief of his department a man as innocent as himself of agriculture, to keep him in countenance?

The Compact.

The cat is out of the bag. The compact with the King is that the Home Rule Bill shall not come into operation, under the machinery of the Parliament Act, until after the lapse of a period sufficient to allow of an appeal to the country and the passing by the Unionists, should they come into power, of an amending or rescinding measure. The latest scheme of the Government is to stick to office till the spring of 1915, which is the earliest date at which the Home Rule Bill can become law, *and then mix up the issue with Land, Franchise and a variety of other topics*, in the hope of "coming back" with a "mandate" for Home Rule! But *the present Bill, whatever its merits, will never come into operation.*

An Object-Lesson.

In the closing hours of the Report stage of the Bill, by the way—the last chance of improving it—the M.P.s. present numbered about a dozen. But the *divisions* on the various amendments averaged 400!

We Beg to Ask—

The Right Hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Admiralty what is the nature of the "grave situation" disclosed to Mr. Borden, and "necessitating the immediate strengthening of our naval resources"; whether the information given to the Canadian Prime Minister has been communicated to Parliament—and, if not, why not?

A Poor Effusion.

From neither a political nor a literary standpoint is the "Reply" of Mr. Bonar Law to the No-Food-Tax Memorial a very creditable production. It is poor stuff. How Mr. Balfour must chuckle! As for Lord Northcliffe—well, his chance of the Postmaster-Generalship has gone.

YOU can Win Our £5 a Week for Life. See page 133.

Bulgarian Butchers.

We hear on high diplomatic authority that the atrocities committed by both sides during the war were the worst of any modern campaign. Of course, terrible cruelty is inseparable from national conflicts, and is bound to affect non-combatants to a hideous degree. Even civilised soldiers see red and run amok when forcing their way through an enemy's country or defending their own. The horrors of the Franco-German war are forgotten by this time, but they were very real. The Italians scandalised Europe by wholesale massacres in Tripoli. There was probably some foundation for Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's talk about "methods of barbarism" in South Africa. What, then, were we to expect from Orientals whose psychology is scarcely more developed than that of Huns or Tartars, particularly when brigands and outlaws were enlisted as auxiliaries? The details which have reached our ears are too sickening for publication. If Peter Karageorgevitch had been a little braver, he would have enjoyed being at the front.

Yellow-Mail.

One has only to look at the map to perceive the insecurity of the present Roumanian frontier. The Danube breaks out into wide swamps northwards just after Silistria, leaving the whole province of Dobruja open to sudden invasion by Bulgaria, now filled with the lust of conquest. But the possession of Silistria would enable the Roumanians to build a short bridge, over which their armies could hasten to the rescue. It is certainly shabby of the Bulgarians to refuse this essential safeguard, particularly when they owe their independence to the help of their neighbour. Yet the *Daily Mail* calls the request "blackmail." Lord Northcliffe is lucky if he has never been subjected to blackmail more serious than this. We must really bring him into touch with our "Hooded" M.P.

R.I.P.

Lord Ashburnham, who died the other day, was the last of the Knights-Errant. He devoted a great part of his large fortune to supporting the Carlist cause in Spain, and was in close touch with Legitimist movements all over the world, not excepting England. At the same time, he was a Tory-Democrat with more leanings to the welfare of the democracy than to the pretensions of modern Conservatism. For instance, he took an active part in advocating Home Rule when Lord Randolph Churchill and his friends were coquetting with the Irish. A kindly, gracious nobleman, with an inflexible will, he earned the affection and respect of all who knew him. The one mystery of his life was a secret marriage. Some five years after it took place everybody was amazed to read its announcement in *The Times*, together with that of his daughter's birth.

Warning to Telephone Girls.

The Government, in giving its girl telephone operators leaflets warning them against the wiles of the White Slave Traffickers, are surely acting the part of hypocrites. Take the Gerrard Exchange, for instance. This is situated in the very centre of "the market," yet scores of young girls are kept at work until 10 p.m. —and mostly on wages that will scarcely pay their train fares home and provide them with lunch. When they leave business, they go out into the very midst of the class of people referred to in the warning. The position seems to us to be on a par with a husband leaving at home a libertine lodger, merely warning his wife. Male operators only should be employed at the Exchange after nightfall.

Female Fellows.

Women *are* getting on—not to say going it. Our attention was attracted by big headlines: NEW HONOUR FOR WOMEN, and the least we expected was the creation of a dozen Duchesses in their own right, or a new Order of the Bath or the Pill-box for the forcibly-fed. What a disappointment to find that all the hubbub concerned the admission of females as Fellows of the Royal Geographical Society! We suppose there are still some people ignorant enough to imagine that a Fellow is something far more distinguished than a member, and that fellowship of that egregious body is a reward of merit. But the facts are that anybody can become F.R.G.S. by paying a sum of money. That, of course, applies to peerages and baronetcies nowadays as well, but the letters F.R.G.S. are openly sold to all applicants, even though they may not have travelled nearer Greenland than Greenwich, Timbuctoo than Tooting. Nor are any advantages offered beyond a few dull lectures and pamphlets. Somebody has been wondering, open-mouthed, who will be the first female Fellow! What about Christabel? She has money—and she *has* travelled.

Hard on the Chiropodist.

The ladies who use the Municipal Turkish Bath at Camberwell have done a shocking bad turn to a hypothetical chiropodist. Probably having in mind their own sufferings, the Health Committee were about to appoint an official chiropodist to the bath when the ladies heard the alarming news. In four days no fewer than 102 of them rebelled against the notion as against only 17 in support. It is not for us to analyse the causes. It may be that in the present fashions ladies do not wear corns, or it may be that they feared the chiropodist to operate on their pedal extremities would be a man, or, if a woman, could not keep a secret. The ladies to their will, of course; but, in the interest of humanity Camberwell way, it is hoped that in the men's department of the bath a chiropodist will always be ready to do his duty. There are moments of human agony when his profession ranks before all others.

All My Eye.

At the drawing of the great Italian lottery the other day, a notary who tried to examine the urns was hounded out because the crowd thought he had the evil eye. We wonder whether many of our readers are aware of the extent of this superstition in Italy. The evil eye is not distinguishable from the ordinary eye. But certain people are supposed to possess it, and to cast a blight wherever they go. And nothing is easier than to spread a rumour about it. Nor is the belief restricted to the ignorant. Suppose one society lady is jealous of another, she has only to go about whispering "Evil eye!" and her rival will not be received anywhere. The evil eye is also very useful in parliamentary contests. What a pity it cannot be imported over here against the Party system! And, of course, the foundation of the peacock superstition is that the feathers are decorated with the evil eye.

Seventeen Next April.

If marriage is a strenuous business in these days for adults, it is, at any rate, a fine game for children. The other day a girl applied to the Westminster Magistrate for a maintenance order against her husband. He is 18; she, 17 next April; she has been married eight months; the twain have now homes apart with their respective parents, and the husband won't work to support her. Did ever children better deserve a good whacking?

"Bullets" Prizes AGAIN Increased. See page 142.

The Canadian "Frost."

In touch, as he is, with the conditions of labour in Canada, a letter which reaches us from Mr. J. A. Ellis, "representative of the Trades Unionists of Saskatchewan," ought to interest Englishmen who are being stuffed with lies and blinded with illusions in regard to prospects and conditions in the Dominion. "Something should be done," he says, "to see that the public are told the truth about the country they intend emigrating to. Mechanics should be very careful on this point, the more so if they intend going to Western Canada, where there is no scarcity of mechanics in the building trades. Large employers of labour there are using every means they can think of to create a surplus of labour, and by that means bring down the wages with a rush. The western cities are being advertised and boomed to such an extent as to mislead the people of this country. A high wage scale is shown, but the cost of living is left entirely in the background. Last summer an advertisement appeared in the Saskatchewan papers to the effect that 300 bricklayers were wanted at Edmonton, Ala., highest wages given. Six bricklayers in Prince Albert thought of going, but before purchasing their rail tickets they sent a telegram to the Edmonton City Commissioner asking him whether the advertisement was genuine. The reply received was, "We have all the bricklayers we want." So much for the Canadian boom in lies.

Where is the R.S.P.C.A.?

Our note on the pitiable condition of the horses employed by the tramway company at Oxford has brought us several letters on the subject, and again we ask, "Where is the R.S.P.C.A.?" One correspondent says, "It is no exaggeration to say that they have been seen to fall from sheer exhaustion. The poor beasts look simply a bag of bones. It is not an unusual sight to see the conductor and some of the passengers alight to assist the horses in getting the cars up a slight incline." We trust the poor beasts have not to suffer also the lack of their dinner to enable the company to pay its 2 per cent. In any case it is regrettable to employ attenuated horses to pull the trams when they could be more satisfactorily converted into Frankfurt sausages for the nourishment of Oxford Town Councillors.

A Typist's Wages.

When Dr. Macdonald, the Medical Officer of the Auckland District Council, suggested that a shorthand-typist should be engaged for the office, at a salary of 15s. a week, "Mr. J. E. Brown-Humes considered that amount was extravagant, and ultimately it was decided to advertise the post at 10s." Mr. J. E. Brown-Humes ought to know that the proper name for this kind of thing is sweating. Though it may not be necessary for the young lady to speak French and German and spell according to rule, it is evident she will have to eat, to find a place of shelter, and to wear respectable clothing. How she is to do this on 10s. a week passes our comprehension.

Brompton Parish Church.

Has the Bishop of the diocese considered the state of things in the parish of Brompton, near Chatham? In this parish the population is something under eight thousand, with the Vicar and his Curate holding service to a congregation of two or three of them in the parish church. For some reason or other, the fine stone fabric has been allowed to fall into desolation and decay, and the parishioners will not enter. If the Vicar is not in fault in any way, some attempt should be made in the diocese to put the church in habitable condition and thus open to the parishioners renewed opportunities of worship.

Business Life and Business Government.

Mr. T. E. Young, the genial and able past President of the Institute of Actuaries, whose words of wisdom at meetings in support of the Business Government we have from time to time applauded, is continuing his good work in a series of interesting and useful articles, entitled "Practical Hints on Business Life," now appearing in *Commercial Education*, the organ of the teachers and students of commerce. The article in the current issue, "The Erroneous use of Words and Expressions generally," gives even the practical journalist "furiously to think" of his own shortcomings. A perusal of the editorial in the same number, "Order and Disorder," shows very clearly how so good a thing as organisation may be carried to excess, while the patriotic Briton will derive some comfort from the striking instance it cites on remissness in practical affairs on the part of those Americans controlling the cotton industry.

How the Money Goes.

If an ordinary business man wanted "a strong youth (about 15 years of age) to pull a truck and make himself useful in the Science Laboratory," or anywhere else, he would spend ninepence or a shilling in an advertisement in a local paper. Not so Mr. John Arthur Palmer, Education Department, Council House, Margaret Street, Birmingham. Having public money at his command this gentleman requires a displayed "Public Notice" for the purpose, has it inserted three times, and pays 26s. an insertion. The ratepayers of Birmingham must be congratulated on the fact that their Secretary of Education does not need a full-grown man in the Science Department to carry bags of coal and slabs of metamorphic rock, or he would probably elaborate his requirements to half a column, and have it inserted twenty times at £5 a time.

More Backstair Methods.

A draper was fined ten shillings the other day at Greenwich for a breach of the Shops Act. His premises were closed and locked, but a woman inspector employed by the L.C.C. knocked, and was served with a pair of gloves. We agree with the defending solicitor's opinion that "she invited the breach of the Act, and the Council's action was contemptible." Some day we shall see that a clause is inserted in these Acts of Parliament making it an offence for anyone to incite to their violation.

The Spirit of the Times.

The fact that the Kitchen Committee of the House of Commons is about to abolish the spirit vat does not imply that they intend to enforce teetotal principles on M.P.'s. within the precincts. The vat having been drained to the bottom, it is to be sold, and a stock of Irish and Scotch is to be accumulated on the basis of one man one gallon. Whatever happens, the Kitchen Committee are determined to keep our legislators in good spirits.

Hope and the Policeman.

The Home Secretary says he hopes that after the 1st of April all the members of the Metropolitan Police will have a weekly rest day. We are glad the arrangement is to take effect after that date. It would be a grave risk if the police were to have a day in on everybody's day out.

Cheers for Cluer.

Upon a decision of the House of Lords being quoted to Mr. Cluer, the Judge of the Shoreditch County Court, his Honour observed, "If it had been decided by a body of business men it might have been different." There can be no doubt about it—we *are* getting on.

OUR £5 a Week for Life CAN Easily be Won.

Knocking Knox.

A reader sends us a cutting from the *Hull Daily News*, of January 14th, containing a striking account of the disaster to the steam trawler *Drax* during the recent gale. The *Drax* being a locally-owned boat, the reporter's feelings apparently carried him away, for he states that "a huge wave rose straight up and took away the top part of the bridge and one of the ventilators, also carrying overboard the man Dilbo. The accident happened between 7 and 7.30 in the morning, and Dilbo was just going off watch to get his breakfast. Once overboard neither Dibbs, who was a big man, weighing between 16 and 17 stones, or the bridge were ever seen again. A remarkable feature of the affair is that the boatswain and the third hand were on the bridge at the time the ship was struck by this devasting sea, and saw the top part of it carried away before their eyes, yet neither was injured, save that the third hand was knocked down and struck the back of his head, the remainder of which was crumpled up like tissue-paper. . . . The ship was brought along until she met the Grimsby trawler *Regal*, which escoreed her into the Humber early this morning. It is remarkable that the *Drax* came across tee Atlantic before the accident without even breaiking a gales, although rough weather was prevailing. . . . Mr. Fred Bridgeman brought her safely back home—without a compas." We should like to "breaik a galss" with the author of this stirring story.

"The Great Emigration Lie."

Notwithstanding the assurances given and the inducements held out to the British emigrants who booked their passages on the *Gothic* and *Port Lincoln*, it is a fact that employment could not be found for very many of them when they were landed in Melbourne. It is also a fact that, notwithstanding the lies told about Victoria, farmers there do not want married couples with children and will not employ them. We have dozens of letters every week from disappointed settlers in Australia describing the local conditions, and we again warn intending emigrants that if they can get a living wage in England they should by no means risk going to Australia (or Canada) in the hope of getting a better one; while if they are constantly out of luck here—"failures," in fact, from whatever cause—they are equally certain to be constantly out of luck there. Australia and Canada want only the pick of British artisans and practical agriculturists, with capital to open up lands which the natives are unable to open up themselves. In a word, they are not on earth with the philanthropic object of helping emigrants, as emigration officers and shipping agents make out, but they believe emigrants are on earth with the philanthropic object of helping them.

No Miracle.

As we suggested in a recent note, the fortune of £41,666 alleged to have been won by an Old Hill miner from a ticket in a Budapest lottery turns out to be "all a mistake." The prizes of these foreign lotteries seldom come to this country, though a considerable number of tickets are sold to British speculators. A person who takes his ticket in England has about as much chance of winning as he has of finding a needle in a haystack.

Sane in Parts.

In a pantomime recently produced at Epsom Lunatic Asylum one inmate wrote the funny lines, another designed the scenery another composed the music, and others acted as stage managers. This proves a favourite theory of ours—to wit, we are all sane in parts.

Why this Reticence?

The Editor of the *Building News* writes to complain that he has just had occasion to ask the Commercial Intelligence Department of the Board of Trade for further information respecting an architectural competition for designs for the Royal Palace and Law Courts in Bulgaria. The first reply given was to the effect that if he gave the name of his subscriber who was asking for the information it would be sent to him direct. The name being sent, the enquirer is now required to "make it convenient to call at the offices of the department in the forenoon," though the desired information is not promised even then. Surely if the function of the Commercial Intelligence Department is to supply to the public commercial information intelligently, it is unreasonable to put an architect to the trouble and expense of travelling to the City, when the reply could much more easily and promptly be given by post. It may be, of course, that the purport of the Commercial Intelligence Department is not that which we have assumed. It may be merely that of finding fat billets for Civil Servants who otherwise would have no work to do.

His Honour Judge Gye.

His Honour Judge Gye has gained a not very enviable reputation for upsetting counsel and litigants by jumping over-quickly to conclusions. The functions of a judge are to wait and see, for impatience results in bias; and litigation not being a game of bowls, bias is unfair. Hearing a company case at the Portsmouth County Court, his Honour rushed in with his premature opinions and conclusions and observations to such an extent of unfairness that even he himself had to admit on reproof by counsel that they might prejudice the plaintiff in a fair trial before the jury, and for this reason he offered to allow the case to be tried before another judge. If his Honour will restrain his ardour to do so much of his thinking aloud during the course of a case, his labours as a County Court judge will be more highly appreciated.

Over Unconscionables.

Even though he is said to have been in trouble before, the sentence of three years' imprisonment passed at the Dover Quarter Sessions on Percy Symes, an 18-year-old youth, for stealing a threepenny loaf, is utterly unconscionable although the treatment is to be "Borstal." There are so many other things to steal in this world, that it is as difficult to imagine anyone stealing bread unless he is hungry as it is to imagine magistrates imposing such a sentence for it unless their hearts are hard and their heads are soft.

Poor Beggar.

Mr. J. Carpentier-Garnier, Colonel H. R. Farquhar, Major G. Aylward and Mr. A. Blackman are the names of the Fareham magistrates who have sentenced to seven days' hard labour a man whom a policeman found begging water. Some people will never take a warning. The man might have known that if he went to Fareham drink would be his ruin.

Trial by Peers.

"May I ask if he understands English?" said counsel, while a German was being sworn at Bow County Court recently. "The other day I found after a case was closed that a juryman did not understand a word of English." Well, we were once—but that is another story.

Mr. Healy on Party.

"Both sides tell lies. If one side was to tell the truth, the other would have a great advantage over them."—(House of Commons, Jan. 13th, 1913.)

"Bullets," a Winter Pastime with Money in it.

The King's Conscience.

Not being religious bigots, we approve of the clause in the Home Rule Bill permitting Lords-Lieutenant to hold whatever views they please. Meanwhile, we take the opportunity of pleading for similar indulgence in regard to Sovereigns and Lord Chancellors. Surely a little tolerance ought to be possible in the twentieth century, even for those in high places.

Prosperity—Starvation.

A contemporary prints in parallel columns the "record trade" figures for 1912—and the report of an inquest on a man of sixty-five. He was a waiter, but had had no work for some time. The verdict was "Death from Starvation"! How long can the gulf pictured here so vividly, remain unbridged? For ever?

Ireland's Uncrowned King.

According to Dr. Roth, the Leipzig genealogist, the Duke of Anhalt, who was made in Germany, has a better right to the throne of Ireland than any living person. We are authorised to say that Mr. John Redmond has other ideas in his crown, while in certain eventualities "Gineral" Carson is prepared to contest the Duke's claim, on the field of battle.

Liverpool Police.

Recent revelations respecting the relations existing between the Liverpool police and certain "disorderly houses" in the city are not pleasant reading. Three dismissed, three reduced in rank, and two fined a week's pay, is a pretty fair crop.

RHYMES OF THE TIMES.

Our ancestors fought for their country,
And fought in a practical way;
They started the fight when their projects were right
And wiped out the foeman's array.
We're bound by illegible treaties
And rules of a similar kind,
But the Teuton has learned, where his country's concerned,
That these may be broadly defined.

Let pacifists rave about "friendship"
Or prate of "goodwill towards men";
Perhaps we may wait till the time is too late,
And what of these imbeciles then?
To them, in their pitiful clamour,
The Empire is merely a name;
They sully the worth of the land of their birth,
And shall we have part in their shame?

Our prestige is still undiminished;
Our Navy is strong as of yore—
We still may stand fast till the danger is past,
And fight as our sires fought before.
Britannia demands our allegiance;
Who then can hang back at her call?
Since they challenge our place, let us set them the pace
And settle them—once and for all.

The crisis is swiftly approaching.
The signs may be witnessed by all;
Already to those who take heed of our foes
The writing stands black on the wall.
Shall Britain be vanquished and broken?
No: let us have done with delay—
Till the Land we love most, from her hills to her coast,
Shall ring with our toast: "To TO-DAY"

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

["*Taking the Biscuit*" *has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical reward or recognition. In this column we present, in all good humour, the token to such of our contemporaries and others as may have distinguished themselves by some unconventional utterance or act.*]

For stating, according to the "Arbroath Herald," that: "They entered the new year with INCREASED FACILITIES FOR AMUSEMENT. *They now had their fine* SLAUGHTER-HOUSE, *the* NEW SEWER *was completed, and everything was in the best of order,"*

THE PROVOST OF CARNOUSTIE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, in its report of a recent accident, that: "The Leicester train was turned COMPLETELY ON ITS SIDE, *but singularly enough* ALL THE COACHES KEPT THE METALS. *This was very remarkable,"*

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES TRIBUNE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "BOILED EGGS *are better for* NOT BEING BOILED AT ALL,"

WOMAN'S LIFE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising: "Wanted, smart young man to MILK, *clean, and look after* MOTOR,"

"B.F." (c.o. *Gazette* Office, Devizes)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, in its report of a local choir supper, that: "A party of about forty, including the WIVES OF THE CHAIRMAN, *sat down to an excellent repast,"*

THE WOODFORD TIMES
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, in an article in the "Burton Evening Gazette," that: "Sheffield United are not very high in the table, but they played well on Saturday, when they had Chelsea as visitors. They were three goals UP *at the interval, but then* RECOVERED MIRACULOUSLY AND DREW LEVEL *within a quarter-of-an-hour,"*

MR. B. J. EVANS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For heading its report of a recent function: "Police and Postmen at Dinner. INCREASE IN DRUNKENNESS,"

THE DUDLEY HERALD
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in an article on the Sunday closing of licensed premises, that: "The time is ripe for a radical change. We see it every Sunday in St. Heliers: if we don't, we are simply acting the part of the CAMEL *and burying* OUR HEADS IN THE SAND,"

THE JERSEYMAN
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "Lord Kinnaird has five Cup medals. . . . On one occasion he figured in GAOL, *on another forward, on another at half-back,"*

THE SPORTS ARGUS (Birmingham)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating of a character in a novelette, entitled "The Great Boxing Fraud," that: "'The hall will be packed FROM ROOF TO CEILING, *or you can call me a fool!' said Donaldson,"*

THE EDITOR OF THE *UNION JACK LIBRARY*
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Our Football Competition is a Great Draw. See page 133.

OUR CHARGES AGAINST SIR PERCY SCOTT.

SHOULD THE BARONETCY BE CANCELLED?—MR. CHURCHILL'S UNFORTUNATE ATTITUDE.

By HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

In our issue of January 11th the following paragraph signed by myself, appeared in large leaded type:—

> We are sorry to see the name of Sir Percy Scott in the New Year's Honours list. Not being naval experts, we are unable to express any opinion upon his abilities as either a designer, a practical gunner or an Admiral. We *are*, however, in a position to say that he represents that type of jealous, narrow-minded officer whose existence, we understand, it is the intention of Mr. Churchill to endeavour to stamp out. It was Sir Percy Scott who, a few years ago, whilst in active command, not only connived at, but personally assisted in, a fierce newspaper campaign against his superior officer, Lord Charles Beresford—his conduct being such that had it come to the knowledge of a First Lord of Mr. Churchill's stamp, it would undoubtedly have led to his being court-martialled. But he kept in the background, stabbing his brother officer in the dark. Such is the man who now receives a New Year's honour! But what His Majesty can give, His Majesty can take away, and we venture, with humble respect, to suggest that, pending inquiry into the serious allegation we now make, the issue of the Letters Patent for Sir Percy's baronetcy should be suspended.

In our issue of January 18th I again referred to the matter:—

> Up to the time of going to press we have received no reply to the most serious allegation brought by us against Sir Percy Scott—namely, that whilst in active command, under Lord Charles Beresford, he connived at, aided and abetted, and took part, personally, in a bitter press campaign against his senior officer—taking special steps to discredit him and to undermine his authority. For such an offence he was, and is, liable to be court-martialled; and we have respectfully suggested that the Letters Patent for his recently conferred baronetcy should be suspended pending an inquiry into the truth of our charges. In order that there should be no doubt as to our readiness to accept full responsibility for our words, we personally signed the paragraph. Neither Sir Percy Scott nor Mr. Churchill—whose attention we have called to it—can allow the matter to remain where it is.

I make no apology for returning to the subject. Indeed, in my view, the best interests of the Service, and of the country, demand that the charges should be fully investigated. The case is typical of a condition of things far too prevalent in the British Navy, and I always understood that it was one of Mr. Churchill's first intentions to endeavour to stamp it out. I have a distinct recollection of a declaration made by him soon after he went to the Admiralty, to the effect that he would do his best to eradicate the jealousies and differences which had existed so long between Naval Officers. I am, consequently, bitterly disappointed at the attitude he has now adopted.

Mr. Churchill's Unfortunate Attitude.

A few days ago he was asked by Mr. Handel Booth "*whether his attention had been called to the fact that Sir Percy Scott assisted while in His Majesty's service in a newspaper campaign against his superior officer; and whether he proposed to take any action in the matter.*"

And the following is Mr. Churchill's remarkable reply:—

"*I am satisfied that Sir Percy Scott's general services to the Navy are deserving of reward and not censure, and I have no intention of reviving the controversies of the past.*"

Now, as regards Sir Percy Scott's "general services to the Navy" I have no desire to carp—not being a Naval expert. I cannot, however, dismiss from my mind the fact that in the opinion of a very large number of practical gunners, and others, Sir Percy has been a much over-rated man, and has received credit and reward for some things, at least, in respect of which the entire merit does not belong to him. Still, his technical critics may be wrong, or they may be unjust; and for my present purpose I am prepared to accept as true everything which has been said in Sir Percy's praise, in his capacity as a Naval Officer. But what, I ask, have his "general services" to do with either the specific charge I have made, or with "the controversies of the past"? I have said nothing about the famous Signalling incident, which caused so much discussion a few years ago, but, apparently, this is what Mr. Churchill has in his mind. My charge is distinct and definite, and is nothing more or less than that, whilst in active command, Sir Percy Scott was guilty of a grave breach of the King's Regulations and of his duty and loyalty to his senior officer, by instigating and taking part in a Press campaign of bitter attack against Admiral Lord Charles Beresford. Surely such an allegation is grave enough to warrant inquiry, and, in the meantime, to justify the withholding of the issue of the Letters Patent in connection with the recently-conferred baronetcy.

Charges Formulated.

Let me be even more specific, and if, after what I am about to state, Sir Percy Scott does not take action, the public will draw its own conclusions.

I charge Sir Percy Scott with having personally instigated Press attacks upon his senior officer, Lord Charles Beresford.

I charge him with having, through his Flag Lieutenant and a lady friend, actually supplied much of the material for hostile newspaper articles.

I charge him with having personally distributed throughout the Navy, large numbers of copies of newspapers containing such attacks.

I charge him with having actually distributed and exhibited on various ships of the Navy, contents bills containing derogatory matter respecting Lord Charles.

Now there is no ambiguity about those charges, and there is no question as to the responsibility in law if they are unfounded. I challenge Sir Percy Scott to deny them. I challenge him to proceed, either civilly or criminally, against me in respect of them. His honour, as an officer of the King's Navy, is at stake. He cannot afford to remain silent. I appreciate Mr. Churchill's chivalry, but he must, I am sure, realise the gravity of my allegations. There is no question of "reviving the controversies of the past." I have raised an entirely new issue. And there is much behind it—much that is vital to the best interests of the nation in the strenuous days that are upon us.

THE FLARE OF THE FOOTLIGHTS.

HOW THE WINGS OF STAGE FAIRIES ARE SCORCHED.

A married woman, at the beginning of December, signed a contract with Mr. Harry Burns, of Welburn House, Hartlepool, to appear in a touring pantomime. The weekly salary, inclusive of matinées, was fixed at 30s., in return for which she undertook to attend two weeks of rehearsals free of charge and to perform to the best of her skill in either the chorus or "as cast"—that is, take any part—at "any theatre in the United Kingdom or anywhere the Proprietor may direct." It will be seen that under this clause the artiste might even have been compelled to appear at some unspeakable places of "entertainment" in South America. Another clause read that she was "to find all suitable dresses, including tights, wigs, shoes or modern wardrobe." Other inequitable stipulations were "Epidemic, fire, Royal demise or other public calamity to put an end to this engagement on the Manager's side at his option"; and "The Manager, should he so desire, to have the option of sub-letting the services of the artiste to any other manager." The rules and regulations printed on the back are also almost incredibly one-sided, as they provide that "All artistes to have their modern dress as near the fashion as possible; the Proprietor has the right to object to any dress he thinks unsuitable, in which case the performer shall provide another to the Manager's satisfaction"; "All artistes shall attend all rehearsals the Proprietor shall think necessary during the engagement, but shall not receive any payment for such attendances"; "All artistes absolve the Proprietor from any liability he may be subjected to through any injury caused by the artiste's performance, or any part or appliance in connection with their performance to the injury of the audience or theatre staff, and accept all such liabilities themselves."

Although one of the rules was: "All engagements subject to one month's notice on either side unless otherwise specially specified in Agreement," there is the following over-riding clause: "Any artiste going on or off the stage contrary to the situation settled at the rehearsals, or making unnecessary noise behind the scenes, to forfeit one night's salary or receive a week's notice at the option of the Manager." The experience of the poor woman who signed this arbitrary and unfair document is that, after rehearsing for a fortnight without salary, she was dismissed the next week under the powers of the last-quoted clause—she having, she informs us, unavoidably been absent from the stage for a short period. After settling up with her landlady, she had left 11s. 5d. wherewith to pay a railway fare to London of about double that amount, and start afresh. Stage aspirants, beware!

"OH, LISTEN TO THE BAND!"

THE BANDSMAN'S LIFE ON THE OCEAN WAVE.

A correspondent who speaks from experience, has sent us an account of the everyday life of a naval bandsman. We have summarised it below for the benefit of our readers.

He is roused at 5 a.m. to help scrub below decks, which he is not permitted to leave till 7 a.m., when he proceeds to help scrub out the mess, after which he washes and has breakfast, which must be finished by 8 a.m. He then goes on deck to play till 8.45 for the sailors' breakfast. He falls in again at 8.50 to play the Colours up at 9, and at 9.5 "Division" is sounded. This item in the day's routine lasts about a quarter of an hour, and as soon as it is over the bandsman commences rehearsing the programme for the evening. This is concluded at about 11.30, and more likely than not the band is immediately called upon to play a musical accompaniment for the physical drill. From midday till about 1.10 p.m. the bandsman's time is his own, but the chances are that he will be wanted by the gunnery lieutenant to play in the transmitting room until 3.30. Then follows half-an-hour of freedom; but Evening Quarters are sounded at 4, and if there are no evolutions after, he is at liberty to have his tea. At 7.15 the band turns out to play for the officers, who sometimes keep it up till midnight. But however late the bandsmen are required to play, they must turn out at 5 the next morning.

For our own part, we are filled with astonishment that, despite so many disadvantages, the naval bandsmen play so well.

A DIDDLE ON THE FIDDLE.

BARGAINS FOR RAGGED RAG-TIME MUSICIANS.

The following advertisement appears in the issue of *Work* for January 11th:—

> ANTIQUE VIOLIN, grand solo tone, labelled Stradivarius Cremona, 1690, good case and bow, bargain, take 19s. 6d.; approval.—Mrs. Styles, 12, Windsor Street, Uxbridge.

This—or a somewhat similar wonderful bargain—has been advertised in the same paper for the last ten years, the following being the announcement which was published so long ago as July 4th, 1903:—

> VALUABLE VIOLIN.—Must sell, property late solo violinist, magnificent rich ringing solo tone, labelled Stradivarius Cremona, 1690, splendid condition, lock up case, lovely Dod model bow, worth £10, cash needed, sacrifice 17s. 6d.; approval willingly before payment.—Mrs. Tyler, 18, Rockingham Road, Uxbridge.

A visit to the publishing offices of *Work* elicited the information from one of the clerks that a woman always brought the "copy" there for the advertisement, her visits being so frequent that she is well known at the place. She is identical with the person who used to insert the "Mrs. Tyler" announcement. Surely the paper should not allow its columns to be utilised for such an obvious fly-trap.

TRICKY TRADERS.

THE VERY LATEST DODGE.

We have frequently criticised the Great Central Supply Company, of 7, Denman Street, London Bridge, back-door touts, whose usual prey are servant girls. The goods they palm off on the ignorant and unsophisticated are shoddy jewellery, Bibles etc. These are sold on the instalment system at exorbitant prices, and should the payments get overdue a threat of County Court proceedings is promptly made. It would seem that we have so thoroughly exposed this firm that they find it necessary to adopt new tactics. For here is their latest dodge. A few days ago one of our readers received a registered parcel containing a rolled-gold chain, together with an account for 21s., and a card on which she was credited with having paid 3s. on January 2nd. Naturally she was surprised, as, being a reader of JOHN BULL, she had not ordered the chain. That others may be put on their guard, she has forwarded the parcel and its contents to us. The chain we value at under sixpence, and as we do not intend to pay the Great Central Supply Co. another 18s. in order to become the proud possessors of it, we shall be pleased to know what they intend to do in the matter. We suggest that they forward us a penny stamp for its return—it is hardly worth the expenditure of the twopence for registration.

MUNICIPAL MEANNESS.

FIDDLING ECONOMY WHILE MARGATE BURNS.

The latest instance of breakdown in the literally vital fire-fighting service comes from "Merry" Margate. One recent afternoon a call was received at the Central Fire Station requesting the brigade to proceed to a shop in the High Street. The hose truck was duly dispatched, but the more important part of the brigade's equipment was unable to follow, as the horses were doing carting work! Some of what the cheeseparing authorities had saved by letting out the animals had, therefore, to be spent on a maroon to recall the driver of the truck. The unnecessary negotiation of the steep hills for which Margate is famous so exhausted the poor horses that they arrived at the fire in a terribly distressed condition. Fortunately, the outbreak was found to be but a small one, otherwise the result of the delay might have been very serious—indeed, irreparable. It is to be hoped that the brigade will be put and kept on a thoroughly efficient footing before the arrival of the Easter Holiday season—it is terrible to think what might happen were a serious outbreak to occur in the middle of the night in one of the crowded boarding-houses, while the firemen were unable to render prompt aid owing to their horses being exhausted by their efforts at a circus in the grounds of the Hall-by-the-Sea during the daytime.

THE HOVE POISON MYSTERY.

A PEEP INTO THE PAST—WHO'S WHO?—A FINAL WORD.

By Our Special Commissioner.

The British public revels in any tragedy with mysterious surroundings. If we are to take as any criterion the London and provincial Press, the death of Hugh Eric Trevanion at Hove is to provide such a sensation. Personally, however, I am of the opposite opinion. I think the second inquest should clear up the matter once and for all. In fact, the first inquest should have been quite enough but for the fact that the eccentric young man made a will that gave certain people in Hove ample room for hinting at foul play—the consequence being that the Home Office ordered the exhumation of the body. The report of its expert, with the exception that his examination showed that 150 grains of veronal had been taken, divulges nothing.

So soon as the general Press intimated that there was a mystery in the affair, I was ordered to take the matter in hand, and I have been able to learn much of the parties concerned in the case. Some of my story I am at liberty to tell now—even although I write before the resumed inquest. First of all, the public will like to know

Who's Who?

(1) Hugh Eric Trevanion (the deceased) was the eldest of three sons of Hugh Arundell Trevanion and Florence Eva Trevanion. He was 27 years of age, and inherited a fortune of close upon £100,000. For years he had been in ill-health, and was a victim of the drug habit. Veronal was his special choice. His tastes in almost everything were abnormal. In another issue I may give astonishing details.

(2) Hugh Arundell Trevanion (commonly known as Captain Trevanion), father of deceased.

(3) Florence Eva Trevanion, mother of deceased, is the fourth daughter of the late Sir Daniel Cooper.

(4) A. E. Roe, who dined with Eric Trevanion on the night of his death, was his bosom chum for 8 years. His age is about 40. He has spent most of his life at sea, and has been an officer on a P. and O. boat. Most of Eric Trevanion's fortune was bequeathed to Mr. Roe. A fact of this kind is, in a sense, unfortunate, but from what I know of Roe—and it is considerable—I am able to say that he did everything possible for the deceased when it was found out that he had taken an overdose of veronal.

Apart from the four names mentioned, there will be several important witnesses in the case. For the purpose of curtailment I will mention only one—Nurse Hawkins. I introduce this lady's name on account of a statement she made to a representative of a London paper. She is reported to have said:—

> I was asked by Dr. Barnes to go to the flat about 8 o'clock in the morning. From the first there seemed no hope at all of the patient's recovery. *We kept injecting strychnine every few hours, but the heart's action grew gradually weaker.*

At the first inquest the mother of the deceased pressed for an adjournment, in order to have a post-mortem. This proposal, however, after discussion with another member of the family, was for the time being abandoned. The jury returned their verdict—that the fatal dose had been taken to induce sleep.

The victim of veronal was the unhappy son of unhappy parents. His father and mother were married in 1882. Five years later Mrs. Trevanion obtained a divorce. Subsequently Captain Trevanion married again. His new wife, however, did not live very long. Then, strange to relate, he re-married his first wife! This remarkable marriage, however, did not turn out any happier than the first one. There were frequent cases of assaulting his wife, and on one occasion, when a son interfered for her protection, he received a broken nose. In 1907 Mrs. Trevanion, having ascertained that her husband was living with another woman at Bexhill, filed a second petition for divorce, which was afterwards altered to judicial separation. This was obtained on July 3rd, 1908.

In May, 1908, Mrs. Trevanion made an application against her husband for Contempt of Court. She asked that he should be committed to prison for breach of an undertaking, which he was said to have entered into not to molest or threaten her. Some of the charges brought against him were that he had sent her the following post-cards:—

> To Florence Eva Trevanion, *née* Cooper, the middle-aged complainant in the Bexhill libel suit, 77, Campden Hill Court, Kensington.—Take some gin, old woman, you will want it.
>
> To Mrs. F. E. Trevanion (grass widow).—A meeting will be held at the Bexhill Police Court on Saturday to decide how to manage a husband and keep him from straying. As you married the same young man twice, and had great experience, you are requested to attend and relate how well you succeeded.

Mr. Trevanion denied that he had written these post-cards. His wife, however, believed that they were in his own handwriting, and her view was supported by Mr. Gurrin, the expert in handwriting. As it was proved that no promise had been made to the Court not to annoy, the Captain did not go to prison.

In 1907 Captain Trevanion, when living at Bexhill with the woman referred to, introduced her to a Mr. and Mrs. Horton, who were moving in a good social circle. They visited Mr. Horton's house several times, and received the usual hospitality. Subsequently it came to the ears of Mr. Horton that the lady was not the wife of the Captain, and having become acquainted with the name and address of the real wife, he dispatched a private and confidential letter making enquiries, at the same time stating that it was his desire to know whether he could continue to admit Captain Trevanion into his family circle. The answer to that letter was that the woman Trevanion was living with was not his wife. Mr. Horton then very properly confronted the Captain with the statement, and demanded an explanation. His answer was, "I'm divorced"—whereupon Horton once more wrote Mrs. Trevanion, and in a postscript said:—

> If you do not inform me to the contrary, and I have no reply, I must believe that you and your husband are divorced, as he represents.

The answer to this confidential letter was a charge of criminal libel! The police-court proceedings were heard at Bexhill in February, 1908, and subsequently at the Lewes Assizes in the following June. I need not go further into the matter than to say the *Grand Jury, after hearing witnesses, threw out the bill.* There could be no doubt whatever that this was a most vindictive proceeding.

Now let me come to the question of Eric's death. He was steeped in drugs.

The "Extra Pharmacopœia," contains the following paragraph:—

What is Veronal?

> Veronal.—Dicthyl-Barbituric Acid. Dose 4 to 15 grains. A white crystal powder. Has a soporific action, indicated in nervous restlessness, insomnia and depression. For maniacs and cardiac (heart) trouble. Produces sleep without subsequent depression, and can be administered in hot tea. In tablets 5, 7½, 10 and 15 grains, and also in "cachets."

Veronal is not an official poison, and even were it on the list there is much trafficking and "trading" done in prescriptions; indeed there are thousands of persons who are taking powerful drugs repeatedly on prescriptions that were never in the first instance written for them.

A Final Word.

A special point was made in the *Daily Chronicle* that during the deceased's last hours, and at his seizure, he was in great pain and agony, and that this caused surprise to his medical attendants, as veronal poisoning has no such symptoms. Now let me ask my readers to refer back to what Nurse Hawkins said. Considering that the dose of strychnine hydrochlorate is from 1-60 to 1-15 of a grain, his death was evidently a happy release to the poor sufferer, and the only surprise is that he did not collapse before. This should be a very strong point in the case. I shall watch it with the greatest interest, and hope to be in a position to throw further light upon it.

ABUSING HOSPITAL CHARITIES.

IMPOSING ON THE SHEFFIELD ROYAL INFIRMARY.

In order to obtain priority in admission to hospitals and infirmaries and the consequent benefit of free treatment by the best surgeons, a practice has grown up, on the part of patients in a financial position a little better than that of the rank and file, to consult, in his private capacity, the specialist attending the institution, paying him a fee and securing by his influence the reversion to the next vacant bed. The natural result is that the poorest class of patient, for whom these institutions were primarily intended, are frequently left out in the cold, whilst those who, at a pinch, might have found the ordinary fees, receive almost exclusively the benefit of the offerings of the charitable.

It sometimes happens, however, that the little scheme does not "come off." For instance, nearly two years ago a Chesterfield man, whose wife required a minor operation, paid to one of the surgeons connected with the Sheffield Royal Infirmary a fee of a guinea for a "consultation." This consultation was quite unnecessary, as a local doctor had diagnosed the complaint—a perfectly obvious one—and stated that the only remedy was the operation. He advised the woman to see the specialist referred to and to pay his fee, when she "would be regarded as one of *his* patients and treated as such" on entering the institution. She duly called upon the great man, and after an interview lasting less than five minutes the money was handed over and she was told to get a letter of admittance. All preparations were made for her anticipated early departure to the Infirmary, but time passed by without the arrival of any notification that a bed was ready. The husband, after writing the surgeon without receiving a reply, got, two months after the consultation, in answer to his second communication, a few lines stating that "your wife will be written for when there is a vacant bed." Two years have elapsed since then, but the woman has never yet heard from the institution. In the meantime the operation has been performed elsewhere.

In these circumstances, the husband, in June last, sent the surgeon a very strong letter, in which he pointed out that his wife knew perfectly well what was the matter with her, and did not need a consultation, and that, therefore, he cannot understand the surgeon taking the fee and never troubling himself about getting her into the Infirmary. He charges the medical man with "dishonourable treatment," and suggests that the least that could fairly be done would be to return the guinea, or a portion of it. This went unanswered. The husband now wants us to denounce the surgeon, but we think that this is a case in which there is blame on both sides—for the husband was seeking an advantage at the expense of poorer fellow-sufferers; while the medical man was taking a fee for what practically amounted to the use of his influence in an unfair manner. Our quarrel is with the system which permits this sort of thing, winking at it so long that the practice has come to be carried on in the most open and unblushing manner.

LONDON CITY MISSION CANT.

CAN A COUNCILLOR REMAIN A CHRISTIAN?

Mr. J. A. Plant has been elected to the Stepney Borough Council, and, in consequence, dismissed from the London City Mission. It was only after repeated invitations from the Stepney Council of Public Welfare that he consented to be nominated. We wonder if the Committee of the London City Mission fully understand the duties of a Missioner. They are, to do all the good possible to the poor; we venture to suggest that Mr. Plant as a Councillor would be a good asset to the Mission. It is true that his time for prayer meetings would be somewhat curtailed by the necessity of looking after housing matters, but what the Mission lost on the swings they would undoubtedly make up on the roundabouts. After nineteen years' service to be dismissed, with three months' salary in lieu of notice, is, as Paddy Doolan would say, "A durty thrick." By the way, we notice that the City Mission is close upon £10,000 in debt! What sort of commercial morality is this?

ARE YOU LONELY?

A COCK AND HEN CORRESPONDENCE CLUB.

One of our readers, having received an invitation to join what is known as The Progress Society, sent it along to us. The letter of invitation states, "You will observe that the purpose of the Society is to banish loneliness by linking up isolated men and women everywhere into a great social body." No fee is imposed, but each member is expected to subscribe to the *Progress Journal*, which is issued monthly, the price being five shillings a year. Looking over this publication—eight pages of piffle—we should say our correspondent is wise in his generation. For it is merely a sheet for the insertion of advertisements from male and females seeking partners. In the first instance, members are known only by a number, by which they correspond. The letter "B" indicates a lady member, and "A" a gentleman. Here is a sample:—

> B250, LONDON.—Pharmacist, lady, 28, broad-minded, womanly, cheerful, loves fellow men, flowers, sunshine, sea, and all beauty. Keen on country tramps, swimming, music, theatres, books, social subjects (not suffragette or crank), travelled widely, hates insincerity, snobbishness, seeks friends and correspondents, especially A's.

Looking at this announcement as broadminded men of the world, we should say that such a lady would have no need whatever to advertise, and she certainly would not be lonely. Glancing over the other pages of the journal, we come across "B246." The young lady to whom it refers describes herself as "Quite unconventional and full of fun." She should be in great demand for week-ends.

BULLYING BUMBLES.

THE "MOUNT EDGCUMBE" TRAINING SHIP AGAIN.

Some eighteen months ago, we criticised severely the management of the Industrial Training Ship, *Mount Edgcumbe*. Things seem to be the same as ever.

In 1908, the son of an artisan played truant—so he was brought before the local magistrates and committed to the *Mount Edgcumbe* until he attained the age of 16. This interesting event will take place on June 29th. The mother last saw her son on Christmas Day, 1911. Being in a delicate state of health she was not able to pay a visit to the ship until the 7th of this month. After waiting two hours, the Captain gave her an interview, when for the first time she was notified that her son had been sent away to sea. Naturally, she was very much upset, especially as she learnt from some of the boys that the lad had cried bitterly at being sent away from England without being allowed to see his mother. The excuse given by the Captain was that a wire for a boy had been received from the Elder Line, and that there was only half-an-hour to get the lad equipped and away.

From enquiries we have made, it appears the boy left the ship on the night of December 30th last, and no notification whatever was given to the parents. We strongly advise the mother to appeal to the Home Office, laying the whole of the facts before them.

LAY INFALLIBILITY.

TOUCHING TRIBUTE TO A CITY CHURCHWARDEN.

A correspondent who had a little dispute with one of the churchwardens of St. Mary Aldermary, Queen Street, London, E.C., communicated with the Rector, the Rev. Bernard Reynolds, and was much surprised to receive the touching testimonial to the superlative worth of the churchwarden—a military man—contained in the following lines:

> I am very sorry you think you have a grievance—but I could not possibly do anything but support my most excellent Churchwarden, Col. Dunfee, who is quite incapable of doing anything wrong; in fact, I should support him if he did what I thought was wrong because he knows far more about business than I do.

It will be seen that the rector of the Church of England credits his official with qualities superior even to those attributed to the Pope—for, whereas the head of the Church of Rome claims infallibility in matters of religion only, Colonel Dunfee is esteemed by Mr. Reynolds to be infallible even in mundane affairs.

This Week's "Bullets" Prizes Value Over £1,150.

ROCKED IN THE CRADLE OF THE DEEP.

THE MARINE DEPARTMENT SLEEPS AMID THE CRIES OF THE DROWNING.

Our exposures and criticisms of the methods of the Marine Department of the Board of Trade have been followed with absorbed interest by our readers, and we have received many requests for our opinion of the just-issued Interim Report of the Committee on Boats and Davits. Put shortly, it is that the Report is "piffle," although just what we expected. As we stated as long ago as August 17th, not one of the members of the Committee has ever launched a lifeboat from a ship's deck in a gale or when an accident has occurred, or even been present at such a time. The Report, by means of verbose official pronouncements, leaves the matter practically where it was twelve months ago; the cross-Channel and home-trading vessels are not interfered with. The policy of continuing to leave the most important matters to the discretion of the Board's surveyors is quite sufficient to condemn the Report in the mind of every thinking man—while, in addition to this extraordinary evidence of official deafness to the teachings of the past, those responsible for it actually suggest that an owner should be able to dispense with the regulation number of davits, on obtaining the consent of the Board, if he thinks they are impracticable! These longshoremen or fair-weather sailors recommend life-rafts and decked lifeboats (as they call them)—which are practically merely life-rafts with canvas bulwarks; they would also allow five or six boats to be stowed under one set of davits. No one making such a proposal could have seen the lowering of a lifeboat 70 ft. off a ship's deck, and the getting of the slack tackles up so as to enable the davits to lower a second boat, let alone five.

A Few Pertinent Questions.

By the way, six months ago—in July of last year—Lord Mersey made his Report and recommendations on the *Titanic* Inquiry, and we should be glad to know whether anything has been done to carry out his Lordship's advice. For instance, has any step been taken to make it obligatory on all vessels to carry at least one lifeboat fitted with some kind of mechanical propulsion? What has been done with regard to the provision of more properly-trained deck-hands? And, as a corollary to the last question, what steps have been taken in order to alter the Board's fossilised rules respecting the discharge of seamen after every voyage? The latter matter is, of course, very important as greater continuity of service is absolutely necessary, for many reasons—among which is that the men should be accustomed to the vessels in which they sail, and to the handling of the life-saving appliances. Again, have the Board insisted on additional and more frequent boat-drills, fire-drills, and watertight-door-drills, and have any new regulations been issued enforcing the entry of the dates of these in the official log, under pain of severe penalties upon the captain and owners? Have they—or their officials, the Marine surveyors—insisted that before a vessel leaves port a scheme should be devised and communicated to each officer of the ship for securing the efficient working of the boats? Has any rule been made that men on the look-out should have their sight tested; or that a police system should be organised on board all passenger steamers, so as to secure order and control in time of disaster or emergency? Has any effort been made to compel shipowners to provide life-jackets that can be adapted for children as well as adults?

The Great Game of Bluff.

The above questions are all based on recommendations contained in Lord Mersey's Report, and we venture to state, without fear of contradiction, that the Board of Trade and its sleepy Marine Department have not moved one finger to carry out a single simple precaution advised by him. They have gone to sleep over the matter, and are waiting for another disaster, another inquiry (for which some of their subordinates will be paid huge fees, and in regard to which they will be able to distribute more public money amongst their supporters, acting as representatives of various more or less—mostly less—affected interests) before they in any way move in this matter. Meanwhile the public can be drowned, while the shipowners laugh and pocket the inflated dividends of which we hear so much in the papers just now.

BLUFFING A COOK SERGEANT.

A WAY THEY HAVE IN THE ARMY?

In the month of June last a company of Territorials were attached to the depot at Winchester for training, the Sergeant of the Regulars there superintending the messing. The day the Terriers marched away to their respective homes, they left behind them a small quantity of tea and sugar, which they gave to the cook-sergeant who had looked after them so well. These spare rations he eventually presented to another non.-com., who, when taking them out of barracks, was stopped by the sentry and asked where he obtained them. Of course, he told the truth. A Court of Inquiry was held, at which the cook-sergeant had no opportunity to call witnesses, and subsequently he was placed in arrest for misappropriation of the groceries. In accordance with the usual military routine, the prisoner had to appear before the medical officer, upon whose report he was admitted into hospital. While there, he received the following mysterious letter. (We leave out names and addresses for obvious reasons, but they are at the disposal of a second Court of Inquiry, at which the accused can call witnesses, if Colonel Seely will order one.)

> I have been authorised (you must not ask by whom) to write to tell you that you are to make an application to your Company Officer for permission to go away on the "Modified Pension Act." You are to do it in the usual way as though your affair had never happened. Your Company Officer will know how to act on receipt of your application. You will not be allowed to return here to soldiering. The Medical Officer at your end will be arranged with to grant you a furlough. Thus, it has been decided you shall be allowed to escape what has been hanging over you. I suggested you might be allowed to try to get "Invalided." The answer I received was: "Yes, he may try it if he thinks he can succeed, only the matter must be settled quickly." Do what you think best, but act promptly. Hoping you are nearly well, and wishing you all success.

Now, we do not like the tone of this letter. If the accused be guilty, there is a distinct suggestion of compounding a felony; if innocent, that he should practically confess guilt by running away from the charge. The cook-sergeant should have held on and demanded his court martial. Thinking, however, that he had powerful friends acting for his benefit, he fell in with the suggestion and applied for retirement on a modified pension. At this period he was only four months short of the twenty-one years' service which would have entitled him to full pension. On the discharge document being placed before him for signature, as usual, he stated in the reservation column that he wished to be recommended for his good conduct medal. This form was subsequently destroyed by the orderly room authorities, and an intimation was brought back to the applicant that if he insisted upon demanding his medal all the witnesses for the court martial would be wired for. Knowing how courts martial can be "cooked" he, in a weak moment, gave way, and was discharged on a modified pension. To a man of average life, the difference between this and a full pension means about a couple of hundred pounds. We should mention that the cook-sergeant's parchment certificate of discharge is marked "Very Good."

It is useless beating about the bush in a matter of this kind. Either this non-commissioned officer is an honest man—as we believe him—or he is a rogue. If he is the former, he—for what reason we are at a loss to understand—has been got rid of by a mean trick and he ought to have his full pension. If he is the latter, he should be tried by court martial, and receive appropriate punishment. In either case, the officer responsible for instigating him to the breach of military discipline which we have described, should at once be placed in arrest and duly tried.

ARE YOU A GOOD SHOT?

TRY ONE OF OUR BULLETS.

See page 142.

YOU can Win Our £5 a Week for Life. See page 123

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.

BULL-DOGGEREL RHYMES BY "THE BOW-WOW."

To grind the faces of the poor
Himself he could not bring,
But gladly grinds the doctor's nose—
That's *quite* a different thing.

The uncrowned king of neighbour France
(By votes Republican),
His reputation will enhance
As President and man.

Behold John Redmond, filled with joy,
Indulge in Irish jigs,
And say, "Home Rule we'll have, me bhoy,
Nixt year, an't plaze the pigs!"

The barristers still bar the Bar
To women, though they plead
That they instinctive pleaders are
And therefore would succeed.

While Britain's mercantile marine
Such gallant sailors breeds,
She on her sailor-race may lean,
For courage still succeeds.

Fair candidates for Venus' crown
Their measurements proclaim,
But since her wrist-size is unknown
Who dares say "Mine's the same"?

"PASS THE SALT!"

PEOPLE WHO DON'T CONVINCE US.

The kind-hearted lady who, according to an advertisement, picked up a Pekingese dog, the property of Sir Arthur Bignold, intending to hand it over to the police and has not been seen or heard of since.

Mr. Henri de Parville, who has found a new cure for baldness—fiddle playing.

Mr. Justice Ridley, who asked in Court the other day what veronal was.

The *dramatis personæ* in the golf case.

The benevolent people of Cricklewood, who, emulating a certain widow of Jewish history, contributed 115,476 farthings towards the restoration of St. Michael's Church.

The two descriptive writers on one of the "dailies" who write respectively on "gentle spring" and "winter blizzards" on alternate days.

Mr. McKenna, who would not let the "Hooded Man" marry Florence Seymour, because similar applications had been "invariably refused."

Magini, who plays the violin and says his hands are insured for £1,000.

A "POEM."

BY A "CONSERVATIVE WORKING MAN."

Dear Sir, I ain't the sort o' man that likes to gas and jaw,
But I wants to ask a thing or two 'bout this 'ere Bonar Law.
He goes about from place to place announcing this or that,
And then five minutes afterwards he contradicts it flat!
And when Bill Smith, sarcastic like, says, "What's your programme, pray?"
Gor blimme! Mr. Editor, what *is* a man to say?
This Bonar changes with each speech—and no doubt in between—
So I wants to ask you straight, Sir, what *does he* really mean?
Say, will he tax our foodstuffs, chance if our Col'nies send 'um"?
And does he want Conscription? And what price Referendum?
So please be quick and tell me, Sir, just what he's 'gainst or for,
Or else the "Cause" 'll lose a vote, along o' Bonar Law.

G. H. B.

"Bullets" Prizes AGAIN Increased. See page 142.

DUPED BY A WOMAN.

WHAT IS A SPY?

By Ex-Intelligence Officer.

In sentencing, at the New Bailey, George Charles Parrott, ex-Naval warrant officer, to four years' imprisonment for having sold to a foreigner certain naval secrets, Mr. Justice Darling said:—

> I have little doubt but that you were entrapped by a woman, who was nothing but an agent engaged in collecting information about this country for some foreign country.

Just so. The Judge knew what he was talking about.

The charge against the ex-gunner was generally spoken of as "The Spy Case." Really, it was nothing of the kind. A spy is a person who is employed to ascertain certain information. Parrott sold information that had come to him in the ordinary course of his vocation. He was a traitor.

One cannot, of course, sympathise with a man guilty of such treachery. In addition to being a traitor he was a fool. History, though, cites hundreds of such cases. In the South African war, women were employed as spies by this country to a large extent. Many readers may remember grave scandals about certain "nurses" in the field hospitals. I could give several instances in which it was necessary to send home "nurses" who were in reality only women of easy virtue, picked up off the streets to play a part. In every army in the field information will leak out, no matter what is done to safeguard "secrets." Let me give one case in point:

A certain small military base in South Africa was particularly unlucky in having almost every convoy it dispatched attacked, with disastrous results—and this in spite of the country for miles around being scoured for the enemy. Obviously the Boers got advance news.

Without going into too many details, as the incident will be easily recognised by the persons who took part in it, I will tell how the culprit was detected. First of all, I obtained two "nurses" from headquarters at Cape Town. I told them the circumstances of the case, and left it to them to do what they could to unravel the mystery. In ten days' time they had their man fixed.

How the Boers Caught a Tartar.

This result was brought about in the following manner: The coming departure of a convoy was, of course, known to certain transport officers. Now, even officers are only human, and life on the veldt not being over bright, it is not to be wondered at that the hospital nurses were in great demand for flirtation. The two "nurses" I had imported from Cape Town soon got to know the transport officers. It was during a little social function that information of departure was obtained. In the course of the evening, the women detectives communicated to the Commander of the Garrison the fact that one of his officers was loose-lipped—so instead of the convoy going out as was originally intended, a strong force of all arms of the service was dispatched, with the result that they met the Boers, engaged, and defeated them, and the man who had "let the cat out of the bag" was sent home, disgraced. This incident put a stop to visits by officers to certain ladies in town whose husbands were supposed to be loyal subjects, the sirens being placed in concentration camps, with a guard over them. Many other instances of officers and men being duped by women might be given did space permit. Suffice it now to say that Lord Wolesley in his well-known "Soldier's Pocket Book," fully recognises the practice, for he says, "The purlieus of Leicester Square could supply our army with spies. . . . All should be petted and made a great deal of, being liberally paid and large rewards given them when they supply any really valuable information. . . . As a nation we are bred to feel it a disgrace to succeed by falsehood. The word 'spy' conveys something as repulsive as 'slave.' We will keep hammering along with the conviction that 'honesty is the best policy,' and that truth always wins in the long run."

In face of this, should we not recognise publicly that as a nation we do just as much spying as any other country? But, of course, when we find one of our own family giving a secret away, we must let him know that he is not playing the game.

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CCXXX.

[In this column every week we publish particulars of some human derelict whose case, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.]

IN THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR.

The other day we received the following letter from a town in Ireland:—

> I am out of employment at the present time, and have walked from one warehouse to another looking for a job, always meeting with the one reply—"Nothing doing." One firm, however, offered consolation by promising to give me a start after Easter. Unfortunately, I am not a fasting specialist—otherwise I would cheerfully wait, living on hope. However, I had better come to the point of what I want you to do. It is this: I am very anxious to return to Birmingham. My trade is a tailoress, but I can also turn my hand to corset-making, and I could go as sorter in a screw factory. I have no money, so I wonder if you would advance me my fare, to be repaid in two instalments. I may mention I have friends residing there, so would be sure of a shelter. Once more begging you will help me and so save a girl from a fate worse than death.

Immediately on receipt of the above letter we wrote to a correspondent residing in the same town as the girl, asking him to investigate the case. This he kindly did without delay. We should mention that he is a hard-headed solicitor, and therefore not one to be over sentimental or easily imposed upon. This is what he says:—

> This is a pitiful case indeed. The girl is living with her mother in two small rooms, and they are in extremely bad circumstances. The family consists of two sisters, two brothers, herself and mother. The father has been dead for four years. The mother is an invalid, and she told me that she had sold all their furniture to provide food for herself and family. When I called, they had nothing to eat; their fire was made of old ropes, and their clothes are in a very bad state.
>
> The girl Lucy (whose letter we have quoted) was out when I visited the place; she had secured an hour's work for sixpence, washing a room. The mother had got a little bit of sewing to do for the nuns, for which she would be paid 1s. 4d.—all this sewing had to be hand done.
>
> The eldest girl is engaged, but cannot secure clothes to be married in; she pawned her engagement ring to provide food for her mother and the rest of the family. She said she would be glad to get any kind of work, and had been employed by a titled lady for two years, but left when her mistress went abroad.
>
> On interviewing Lucy, she said if she could only get to Birmingham she would be able to obtain work, as she could turn her hand to anything. She also said she had friends there who would give her a shelter. She is very thin for want of proper food and nourishment, but I think she would get along all right if she could secure employment. When I went to the house I found them all crying. The children were coming home from school and there was nothing for them to eat. There is a big boy, about 14 years of age, who could work if he had clothes. I think this is a most deserving case, and any help that could be given them would be greatly appreciated.

We have only to add that, immediately on receipt of this report, we forwarded the family a sovereign—not, of course, for the exclusive use of our correspondent, but for the family as a whole. We now confidently leave the matter in the hands of our readers.

We have received the following amounts, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:

CCXXVII.—"A Friend," 5s.

CCXXVIII.—A. A., 5s.; T. E. L., 5s.; "A Winner," 2s. 6d.; "Z. Y. X. W.," 2s. 6d.; H. C. C. (Lumbwa), 5s.; "Don," 6d.; J. B., 1s.

CCXXIX.—"Ivy Mary," 1s.; A. J. E. S., 4s.; "Elgype," 3s. 4d.; "Elstow," 1s.; "Mrs. Jim," 10s.; D. R., 5s.; G. W. F. 2s.; T. C., 10s.; W. G., 4s. 6d.; "Gamekeeper," 5s.; J. L., 1s.

Our Christmas Charities.—We have much pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of 1s. from "Cornhill Post Runner."

OUR £5 a Week for Life CAN Easily be Won.

Eckford's
GIANT SWEET PEAS

THE BEST SEED IS CHEAPEST.

Sweet Peas are requisite to the small, medium or large garden, and if you wish to have colour, effect, prize specimens, and tall plants, then send to **Eckford's** for your seeds. **Larger flowers, longer stems, brighter colours, and a profusion of bloom will be the result of growing Eckford's Seeds. REMEMBER, GENUINE ECKFORD'S SEEDS CAN ONLY BE OBTAINED DIRECT FROM WEM. No Agents are employed.** In choosing your Collection, remember that **Eckford's Sweet Peas** are all **strong growers,** and every plant needs to be placed at least six inches apart, so that, while you may buy more seed for the money, remember, a cheaper collection may not be more profitable. There is a great deal of **Rubbish** being sold nowadays as **Eckford's Sweet Peas,** but they are not **Eckford's** unless **direct from Wem.** If you have bought **Sweet Peas as Eckford's** elsewhere, you have not got **Eckford's.** We have **many thousands of customers in every part of the globe,** and they are all enthusiastic about **Eckford's Seeds.** Awarded over 160 Gold and Silver Medals.

SPECIAL NOVELTIES FOR 1913.

BARONESS DE TUYLL.—This is truly the most delightful pink Sweet Pea that we have ever had the pleasure of sending out, and it is quite safe to say that nothing so entirely charming and pleasing in pinks has been sent out since the true "Countess Spencer" was first offered to the public. It is four-flowered, beautifully waved, and a very strong grower. Quite 18 in. should be left between the plants. In sealed packets, 5 seeds, 1s 3d; 10, 2s 6d.

GUSTAV HAMEL.—This is a magnificent giant and free flowering variety of a rich rose overlaid with salmon. It is beautifully waved and four-flowered, possessing a bold, upright standard. In shape it is just what a waved Sweet Pea ought to be. The plant is a strong grower, needing plenty of room. In sealed packets, 5 seeds, 1s 3d; 10, 2s 6d.

CLEMATIS (Grandiflora Type).—This beautiful self is quite an advance in colour, being best described as a "Clematis Jackmanii" blue. As a garden variety it is most attractive, the vines being literally clothed with lively blue flowers, which are generally borne in threes on long, strong stems. In sealed packets, 5 seeds, 6d; 10, 1s.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FOR 1913.

EXHIBITORS' "O" COLLECTION.
24 charming **Giant Waved** varieties for exhibition or any purpose, 10 seeds of each, as follows:—
Apple Blossom (Waved). **Apricot**, apricot. [pink.
Asta Ohn, lavender.
Captain of the Blues (Waved) blue.
Cerise, cerise.
Clara Curtis, primrose.
Constance Oliver, creamy-pink.
Countess Spencer, pink.
Dodwell F. Browne, crimson.
Dorothy Tennant (Wd.).
Etta Dyke, white.
Evelyn Hemus, creamy-pink mauve.
Flora Norton (Waved), blue.
Lady Althorpe, white.
Menie Christie, mauve.
Maud Holmes, crimson.
Mrs. Chas. Mander, mauve.
Mrs. H. Sykes, pink.
Mrs. Henry Bell, apricot.
Mrs. W. King, rose.
Othello (Waved) maroon.
Paradise Ivory, ivory-pk.
Queen Victoria (Waved), pale primrose.
Senator (Waved), chocolate stripe.
Also 10 seeds each of **Pink Pearl**, pink; **Phenomenal**, blue, picotee edge; **Frank Dolby**, lavender; and **Helen Lewis**, salmon, gratis. **Price 5s 6d., post free for cash.**

VILLA "B" COLLECTION.
24 choice varieties, a splendid range of colour for garden effect and cutting, 50 seeds of each as follows:
Agnes Eckford, pink.
A. J. Cook (slightly Waved), lavender.
Black Knight, maroon.
Captain of the Blues, blue.
Dorothy Eckford, white.
Frank Dolby (slightly Wv.), lavender.
Gladys Unwin (slightly waved), pink.
H. Lewis, (Wvd.), slmn.
Mrs. C. Mander (Wvd.), mauve.
Phenomenal (slightly Wv.), blue-picotee edge.
Miss Willmott, salmon.
Pink Pearl (slgtly. Wvd.), pink.
Helen Pierce, blue flake.
Henry Eckford, coral.
Horace Wright, dark blue.
James Grieve, cream.
King Edward VII., crim.
Lord Nelson, blue.
Luminosa, coral.
Mid Blue, blue.
Queen Alexandra, scarlet.
Queen of Spain, pink.
Sybil Eckford, creamy-blush.
Venus Imp., creamy-pink.
Also 10 seeds each of **Mrs. Hardcastle Sykes** (Waved), pink; and **Countess Spencer** (Waved), pink, gratis. **Price 5s 6d., post free for cash.**

EXHIBITORS' "D" COLLECTION.
12 charming **Giant Waved** varieties, splendid for exhibition or any purpose, 10 seeds of each, as follows:—
Asta Ohn, lavender.
Countess Spencer, pink.
Dodwell F. Browne, crimson. [mauve
Dorothy Tennant (Wd.).
Etta Dyke, white.
Evelyn Hemus, crmy.-pk.
Flora Norton (Wv.), blue.
Mrs. W. King, rose [pk.
Mrs. Hardcastle Sykes, mauve.
Mrs. Henry Bell, apricot.
Othello (Waved), maroon.
Paradise Ivory, ivory pink.
Also 10 seeds of each of **Cerise**, cerise; and **Helen Lewis**, salmon, gratis. **Price 2s 9d, post free for cash.**

VILLA "C" COLLECTION.
12 choice varieties, suitable for garden effect and cutting, 50 seeds of each, as follows:—
Agnes Eckford, pink.
A. J. Cook (slightly Waved), lavender.
Black Knight (maroon).
Dorothy Eckford, white.
Frank Dolby (slightly Wv.), lavender.
Helen Lewis (Wd.), slmn.
Henry Eckford, coral.
Lord Nelson, blue.
Mrs. Collier, pale pmrose.
Phenomenal (sltly. Wv.), blue-picotee edge. [pink.
Pink Pearl (slgtly. Wvd.),
Queen Alexandra, scarlt.
Also 5 seeds of each of **Countess Spencer** (Waved), pink; and **Mrs. Hardcastle Sykes** (Waved), pink, gratis. **Price 2s 9d., post free for cash.**

HALF VILLA "B" COLLECTION.
25 choice varieties. The same as the **VILLA "B"** exactly, only 25 seeds of each variety. Also 5 seeds of each of **Countess Spencer** (Waved), pink; and **Mrs. Hardcastle Sykes** (Waved), pink, gratis. **Price 3s, post free for cash.**

VILLA "D" COLLECTION.
12 choice varieties. The same as the **VILLA "C"** exactly, only 25 seeds of each. Also 5 seeds of each of **Countess Spencer** (Waved), pink; and **Mrs. Hardcastle Sykes** (Wvd.), pink, gratis **Price 1s 6d.**

A specially written Booklet is sent FREE with every order, giving full details of Culture, so that the greatest novice may attain success.

"I tried most of the growers last year, and did all I could to bring them all on. We had a great show. Mr. B., the Duke of L.'s Head Gardener, gave First to yours, and did you (and me) the honour of saying that 'he never saw finer.' They were the admiration of the whole county.—Rev. F. G."

ECKFORD'S FLORAL BEAUTIES IN COLLECTIONS.—Arranged liberal in quantity, and contains only varieties that have been proved excellent in my own Trial Grounds at Wem, and are the best value in the trade.

AN ECKFORD FLOWER GARDEN for 5s., post free for cash. **Eckford's Ideal Collection of Floral Beauties contains:** 6 varieties Giant Sweet Peas, sep. and mxd.; 3 pkts. of Choice Asters, sep. cols.; 3 pkts. of Choice Double Ten-Week Stocks, sep. cols.; 3 pkts. of Ornamental Grasses for mixing with cut flowers; 1 pkt. of each of the following **12** Hardy Annuals: Alyssum for edging, Calliopsis, Shirley Poppy, Annual Chrysanthemum, Schizanthus, Eschscholtzia, Godetia, Miniature Sunflower, Larkspur, Mignonette, Nasturtium, and Nigella. 1 packet each Half-Hardy Annuals, as follows: Lobelia, Nicotiana, Marigold, and three Everlastings for Winter Decoration; 1 pkt. each Hardy Perennials, as follows: Antirrhinum, Aquilegia, and Canterbury Bells; with 1 packet of Single Wallflowers, **5s., post free, for cash with order.**

AN ECKFORD FLOWER GARDEN for 2s. 6d. Eckford's Ideal Collection of Floral Beauties for Smaller Garden contains: 1 packet each of the following Choice Flower Seeds:—"Matchless" Mixture of Giant Sweet Peas, Choice Mxd. Asters, Choice Double Ten-Week Stocks (mxd.), 1 packet Ornamental Grass, Annual Chrysanthemum (mxd.), Shirley Poppy, Eschscholtzia (mixed), Larkspur, Candytuft, Lobelia, Mignonette, Schizanthus, Nicotiana, Marigold, Nasturtium (tall), and Single Wallflowers. **2s. 6d., post free, for cash with order.**

FREE.—**Send a postcard to-day for large illustrated and coloured Catalogue. It gives full particulars of all novelties in Sweet Peas for 1913, and contains full list of all Flower and Vegetable Seeds.**

HENRY ECKFORD, SWEET PEA SPECIALIST (Dept. 83). **WEM, SHROPSHIRE.**

OUR RECORD COMPETITION.

WHY WE OFFER £5 A WEEK FOR LIFE.

If we were looking for a proposition or a scheme which is honest, we should endeavour to find one untrammelled by conditions and by contingencies which render its ultimate promise but a variation of the confidence trick. You know the Confidence Trick, of course—"*If* you show your confidence in me, I will engage you to help in the distribution of the wonderful wealth left me by my foster-mother's aunt's sister's cousin, and will pay you £3 or £5 a week for life for your trouble."

Alas, there is always the *If*. So it is with these marvellous Money Competitions which are so hedged by contingencies that it is impossible to win them. "If any of the matches should be abandoned the chief prize will not be awarded," is a splendid saving clause of the Great Confidence Prize which *any* paper can offer.

It is no idle boast on our part to say that we have as nearly as possible eliminated the great "*If*" from our "£5 a Week for Life Competition." Too many "If's" spoil the competition, and so we have made it a practical certainty that the greatest prize ever offered by a paper or periodical will be won. True, we have given 20 matches whose results, *not goals*, must be correctly given. A contemporary asked for the results of far more matches, and then saved itself from its generosity by introducing the great *If* of Abandoned Games. We are giving fewer matches, and have struck out the "If" of Impossibility. We do not care if ten or twelve of the games are abandoned. We shall most certainly award the £5 a Week for Life Prize to the competitor who sends in the correct result of the matches actually played, no matter how few they are. Understand us aright. We have every reason for our generosity. We are well aware that the award may mean that we shall have to pay eventually £5,000 to £6,000 before ending our liability. That is a business proposition which we view with perfect equanimity. It is going to pay us, because we anticipate making a much larger sum out of the glorious advertisement of having paid the Greatest Prize on Record. If the £5 a Week for Life is not won we shall certainly be disappointed. We are determined that not a single voice shall be raised in the land against our award. We have made such arrangements that there is not the remotest possibility of a single coupon being overlooked, or of fraud of any kind being perpetrated.

The "£5 a Week for Life" Competition is one of absolute skill and one of perfect fairness. We have made it as easy and as simple as possible, consistent with the exercise of genuine skill on the part of the competitor. Moreover, as token of this honesty, we have made it a condition that, if nobody actually wins the glorious pension, £500 at least must be awarded to some fortunate reader of John Bull. Go in and win. Do so, and we will pay.

SOMETHING LIKE A DASH!

("*In July*, 1914, *Amundsen will start upon his dash to the North Pole. The expedition will last about seven years.*"—Vide Press.)

In July of Nineteen-Fourteen he will make a dash indeed;
There is no word save "terrific" to denote his breakneck speed!

To the Northern-Polar regions he'll betake him in his craft;
"*Swift* and sure" will be his watchword as he paces fore and aft!

Not the rapid "Flying Dutchman," nor the fastest airman can
Reach the speed he will attain to—he's a record-making man!

Would that I were with him whilst he journeys o'er the heaving waves,
Dashing onward in a manner which our admiration craves!

Think of it! His Poleward dash will occupy—just think, I pray—
Only seven years! Was ever pace so rash and reckless, eh?

Claude Greeking.

HEARD IN THE TRAIN.

THE MATERNITY BENEFIT.

1st Lady: An' now she's got the fice ter blime me fur it!

2nd Lady: Thet's like Liz.

1st Lady: On'y this mornin' she ses ter me, she ses, "Didn' chew tell me if I on'y 'eld on fur annuver dye I should git the merternerty benefit?" she ses. "Yuss," I ses, "I owns it," I ses.

2nd Lady: Thet wos the fourteenth, then.

1st Lady: Yuss. Corse, I wos on'y finkin' of 'er good, knowin' 'er old man wos outer work, an' thet thirty bob would come in mighty useful at sich a time.

2nd Lady: I should fink so.

1st Lady: So I ses to 'er, I ses, "You 'old on, Liz, fur annuver dye, an' you'll come under the merternerty benefit, an' git thirty bob to 'elp yer through it," I ses. So, bein' a strong-minded woman, she manages to put it orf until 'arf pars one in ther mornin' of the fifteenth. Jer see?

2nd Lady: Yuss. I don' believe I could put it orf like thet not if you wos ter pye me.

1st Lady: Nor me neether. Any'ow, *she* did it. An ther very fust words she sed to 'er ole man arter the docter wos gorn wos, "'Ere, Jim, you jest see abart ther merternerty benefit, will yer?" she ses. "It'll jest come in right nar." "Right chew are, Liz," 'e ses. "You keep yerself quiet. I'll see arter thet." An' 'e did, I give yer my word.

2nd Lady: But 'e couldn't git it at onct, could 'e?

1st Lady: Nar! 'E 'ad ter git a form an' awnser all sorts 'er queschuns, an' git the docter an' ther midwife ter sign it. Enny'ow, w'en heverything wos filled in proper, 'e sent it in, an' nex' dye 'e got an order fur thirty bob on ther post orfice. "It's orl right, Liz," 'e ses, w'en 'e got it. "I'm orf nar," 'e ses, "ter git ther thirty bob," 'e ses. So Liz turns over an' goes ter sleep w'ile 'er ole man goes orf ter ther post orfice ter git ther rino.

2nd Lady: Pity she didn't go wiv 'im.

1st Lady: Yuss. But 'ow could she? She 'ad ter trust 'im. But it's tort me a lesson, I give yer my word. See if I let my ole man go orf on 'is own fur the oof w'en my time comes! Not 'arf I won't, I don't fink!

2nd Lady: I believe yer.

1st Lady: So orf 'e goes, es cheerful es yer please. This wos abart 'arf pars ten in ther mornin'. But 'e don't come back. I looks in ter see 'ow Liz wos agittin' on erbart one o'clock, an' I ses, "'As yer ole man come back wiv ther merternerty benefit yet, Liz?" I ses. "Nar," she ses, "'e ain't come back yet," she ses. "I specs there's a bit of a crush et ther post orfice," she ses. "Yuss," I thinks ter meself, "I specs there is a bit of a crush—et ther Dook o' Wellin'ton."

2nd Lady: You never sed nothink truer.

1st Lady: Well, I looks in agin erbout eight er'clock. "'As yer ole man come back wiv ther thirty bob, yet, Liz?" I ses. "No," she ses, "'e ain't. I reckon 'e's gorn on the booze wiv it," she ses. "H ain't 'ad nothink fur mumfs, an' now 'e's broke out, I reckon, 'avin' ser much brass on 'im," she ses. "Well, if thet's the case," I ses, "'e's a durty tyke, an' I don't care 'oo 'ears me say it," I ses. "Don' chew miscall my 'usban'," she ses. "'E's a good 'usban' w'en 'e's sober, an' if 'e's gorn on ther booze nar, it's *yore fault*," she ses. "My fault," I ses, "'ow do yer mike thet art?" I ses. "Didn't chew tell me to 'old on fur annuver dye an' git ther benefit?" she ses. "Yuss," I ses, "I did." "Well," she ses, "thet's orl ther bloomin' benefit it'll be ter me. I specs ther ole man's run in be this time, an' wot's left of ther blinkin' benefit'll go to pye 'is fine. It's yore fault," she ses, "an' I don't wanter see yore fice in my 'ouse agin," she ses.

2nd Lady: There's gratitood for yer! Thet's Liz orl over.

THE PARTY PRESS.

Star:—"Complete Panels — 1,400 Doctors to Work the Act — The Malcontents."

Evening News:—"The Doctors' Victory — Inadequate London Panels —Official Figures."

Can you answer these questions?

Every man engaged in business ought to know the answers to these questions. DO YOU know them all?

YOU will probably find it quite easy to answer most of these questions, but unless you are a rare and brilliant exception you will find several others a good deal more difficult. Some of them, indeed, may be altogether beyond you.

And yet, you will agree, they are all questions that you might have to answer any day in your own business. So—if only out of curiosity—run through the list and see how many you can answer correctly.

20 Specimen Questions.

1. What is the exact purpose of a ledger?
2. What do these signs mean: "E. & O. E.," "F.A.S." & "G.A"?
3. How would you open a branch?
4. What is a consignment note?
5. Do you know how to organise a sale?
6. Do you understand office organisation?
7. What is the difference between sending goods on "consignment" and "on sale or return"?
8. How often by law must a factory be "limewashed"?
9. How and when is a judgment summons issued?
10. What is the cost of registering a limited company?
11. What is the rule about doubtful debts in assessing income tax?
12. Do you know how to take out a patent?
13. Must a receipt be in writing to be valid?
14. What exactly is a "special settlement"?
15. How and when can you claim for loss of an article sent by registered post?
16. What is the difference between a factor and a broker?
17. How would you draw up a selling scheme?
18. How does a secured creditor in bankruptcy abandon his security?
19. Is a seaside shopkeeper liable for rates in the winter when his shop is shut up?
20. How can you recover debts at court without the expense of a solicitor or collecting agency?

How Many Did You Answer?

Well, how have you come through this examination in business knowledge? You must not forget that the knowledge of these facts and of many other facts like them is absolutely necessary to you if you mean to succeed. If you are in business for yourself you know how useful you would find it to be able to answer any business problem that arose; if you are working for others you must realise that your employer will value you more highly if he knows he can go to you for information when he needs it.

And that is why the "Business Encyclopædia and Legal Adviser" is so valuable a work—because it contains information about every point in business life. With it by your side you can answer any question about business that is put to you. For instance, you can answer all the questions that you have just asked yourself. You will find the full purpose of a ledger in the article on Ledgers, Vol. III., page 294. Under "Abbreviations" you will find the meaning of every symbol and sign that is used in business to-day. The third question you will solve by looking up the fine article on the Basic Idea in Business, and so on with all the other questions; and, in fact, with any question about anything relating to business. Thus, in question 19, you will find in a moment that the shopkeeper is liable for rates for the whole time (see Vol. III., page 26).

How This Concerns You.

These questions may not arise in your business, but others do, and if you think it would mean anything to you to know at once what to say or do in every emergency, you should send the coupon below for a handsome illustrated book on Business, telling all about the "Business Encyclopædia" and giving the names of the successful business men who have written it. It also tells how any reader of JOHN BULL may obtain the complete work in seven volumes for a first payment of 1s. 6d. only, and pay the balance in small monthly payments. Sending the coupon commits you to nothing. Is such an opportunity one you should miss?

Written by Successful Business Men.

All the information you get from the "Business Encyclopædia" is up-to-date and reliable, for its contributors include many of the most successful business men of the day, among them being such famous men as Richard Burbidge (Managing-Director, Harrods Stores), S. F. Edge (the well-known Motor Expert), John Lawrie (Managing-Director William Whiteley, Ltd.), Sir Joseph Lyons (Managing-Director J. Lyons and Co., Ltd.), H. G. Selfridge (Founder of Selfridge's, Ltd.), Wareham Smith (Advertisement Director of the *Daily Mail*), Sir Thomas Dewar (Managing Director of J. Dewar and Sons), J. Murray Allison (Advertisement Manager of *The Times*), H. Simonis (Director of the *Daily News and Leader*), etc., etc.

TWO OPINIONS.

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IRISH FURNITURE REMOVER: "Shure, if me old girl saw me now, Oi shouldn't have a whole bone in me body!"

SAD STORIES.

By Leopold Spero.

A Royal Academician was commissioned by a Wealthy Caliban to paint his Portrait. "Don't you Go and Flatter me, now," said Caliban. "I'm a Plain Man and I Wish to be Depicted as Such." The Painter said Naught, since he Agreed with the Oyster that there's considerable Virtue in Shutting Up between Meals. But he thought a Good Deal, and eventually produced a Portrait that had its Points of Resemblance both to Alexander the Great and Napoleon Bonaparte, but no Point of Resemblance whatever to the Wealthy Caliban. The Latter, however, sent along a Cheque that would have Taken a Prize at a Cattle Show for Fatness; and the Royal Academician reflected that while Truth may be Stranger than Fiction, there's nothing like Lather.

* * *

"This Baboon," said the Head Keeper, "is the Wildest Animal in the Zoo. They have put Triple Netting all round his Cage to Prevent him Tearing Samples off the Lemurs. And now the Lady Lemur talks to the Neighbours about him All Day Long." "And he can't get at her, eh?" asked an Appreciative Spectator. "No, sir," said the Keeper. "That's what makes him so Wild."

* * *

A Candidate for Parliament had a Dream. He Dreamt that a Certain Old Gentleman came to him during Office Hours, while he was Busy Rigging the Catgut Market. "What the Devil——!" said the Candidate. "That's me," said the Old Gent. "I've come on Business: it's Quite All Right. Do you want to Get in for the Rottenborough Division?" "Can a Lame Duck waddle?" asked the Candidate, oracularly. "Well," said the Old 'Un, "I'm Conducting a little Experiment in Food Values, and I'll Guarantee you the Seat if you'll eat these." And he pulled out a small Packet from his Coat Tails. The Candidate took the Packet, Opened and Examined it, and Handed it Back with a Sigh and a Shake of the Head. "Why, what's the Matter?" asked the Old Gent. "They're your own words, aren't they?"

THE MAN AND HIS CREED.

V.—Mr. John Redmond.

I BELIEVE in the political purpose, aims, and ideals of Parnell.

I BELIEVE there was but one Parnell, and that John Redmond is his prophet.

I BELIEVE in Home Rule for Ireland.

I BELIEVE that all's fair in love, war, and working for Home Rule.

I BELIEVE in accommodating my speeches to the sentiments of my audiences.

I BELIEVE in expressing pro-British sentiments in England and anti-British sentiments in America.

I BELIEVE in the Almighty Dollar.

I BELIEVE in trading on the weakness of the Government in power.

I BELIEVE in the political *quid pro quo*.

I BELIEVE in selling my party's votes to the highest bidder.

I BELIEVE in scratching the Welsh Members' backs if they will scratch ours.

I BELIEVE in the Disestablishment of the Welsh Church—because it pays me to.

I BELIEVE in the inclusion of Ulster in the Home Rule Bill—because Ulster pays the largest proportion of Irish taxation.

I BELIEVE in saving the Government from defeat—because a General Election would probably mean the end of the Home Rule Bill.

I BELIEVE I shall be Prime Minister of the new Irish Parliament.

I BELIEVE we shall have some rare old times in the Parliament on College Green.

I BELIEVE I shall say good-bye to the English House of Commons in 1914.

COULD YOU DO WITH TWO GUINEAS A WEEK?

If so, see page III. of cover for particulars of our

Weekly Ballot Scheme.

PURE *VERSUS* ADULTERATED COCOA.

Striking Corroboration of Public Warning.

Read what the "LANCET" says:—

In connection with the Public Warning issued by Mr. Eugen Sandow with regard to the consumption of adulterated Cocoa, and in particular of Cocoa prepared by the addit on of ALKALI, an immense amount of overwhelmingly convincing support has been disclosed from scientific and medical authorities and food experts.

As everyone knows, the "LANCET" is the premier organ of the British Medical Profession, and a universally respected guardian of the Public Health. Quite a while ago, when the harmful alkali process now used in nearly all cocoa manufacture was first becoming prevalent, the "LANCET" regarded the matter as of such great public importance as to call for investigation, a d an important article upon the subject was publ.shed, from which the following extract is given:—

EXTRACT from the "LANCET."

"From practical experience gained in the 'LANCET' Laboratory during the past year, it is evident that the practice of treating Cocoa with Alkali is largely on the increase. It is done ostensibly, we believe, to render the Cocoa more 'soluble'; in reality the Cocoa fat is in part by this treatment saponified so that the infusion made with it presen s the appearance, and conveys to the palate, the impression of a richer and more full-bodied beverage. In addition, the powder is considerably deepened in colour, which is probably and wrongly judged by the public to indicate richness and quality. If it were necessary to treat the Cocoa in this way, in order to make it palatable and d gestible, we should have nothing to say; but it is not so, and that being the case, it constitutes a mild but distinct form of fraud. We go further, and enter a protest against this treatment of Cocoa with Alkali, because it is evident that in many cases it may be productive of harm. . . . Moreover, it is well known that the long continued use of alkali leads to digestive disorder, and consequently impaired nutrition."

SANDOW'S HEALTH AND STRENGTH COCOA is:—

1. Absolutely PURE, and free from any trace of added alkali or other drug or chemical or flavouring matter whatsoever.
2. Easily digested and perfectly assimilable, because all excess of indigestible fat is removed. Thus the most ***delicate invalid*** can digest it with the ***same ease*** as the healthy and strong.
3. Most nutritious, because it contains a far higher natural percentage of valuable nerve, brain and tissue building albuminoids than any other cocoa sold.
4. Superlatively pleasing to the palate.
5. Ground to a degree of fineness four times as fine as any other cocoa, thus permitting its manufacture ***without added alkali***, and rendering it the most readily soluble cocoa, leaving NO WASTE SEDIMENT in the cup.
6. Most economical—bulking larger, giving more half-spoonfuls weight for weight. Thus a ¼ lb. tin of Sandow's Health and Strength Cocoa makes ***many more cups*** of delicious, health-giving, strength-creating and stamina-building beverage than a ¼ lb. tin of any other cocoa on the market.

Insist on having Sandow's Pure Alkali-Free Health and Strength Cocoa, and accept NO OTHER AT ANY PRICE.

SOLD EVERYWHERE at 3d., 4½d., and 7½d.

Sandow's Health and Strength Cocoa.

OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS, AND TELEGRAMS.

To the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith, Prime Minister.

DEAR PREMIER,—Permit me to compliment you upon your ineffable tact. It really will be far wiser to defer your Land Bill until you gentlemen in the Cabinet can agree about it among yourselves.

When in doubt, beat the drum theological! Or do you really mean business at last? I hope so. It is high time some move was made to bring our so-called "educational" system up to date, and thus place us abreast of our rivals in the commercial struggle. As you have good reason to know, "religious" peace is the first condition of a lasting settlement. There is only one way of securing it. You must command the cleric and the parson to compose their differences on pain that if they fail to do so you will knock their heads together and turn them both into the street. Only so will you effect a settlement which may be the basis of a system commensurate with our commercial needs.

I sat all through the debates on the Education Bill of 1906—but I never heard the word "education" mentioned. *This* time, don't let us hear the word "sect."

JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, M.P.

DEAR LEADER,—You have made rather a mess of that Tariff Reform business, and all because you persist in treating it as a Party issue instead of what it is—a Business question for business men.

Really, I looked to you for something better. Some of your earlier parliamentary utterances breathed a refreshing spirit of practical common sense. It is a thousand pities that you should treat this great commercial problem in a finnicking Party spirit, when you are so admirably qualified to approach it from the proper standpoint.

No one can be blind to the difficulties of your position, but you only complicate them by following when it is yours to lead. Strike out a line of your own! Frame a truly Commercial policy and declare it boldly—trusting to the good sense of the nation to follow your lead. Let your aspirations soar higher than the nominal headship of a section of the discredited Party army. It may yet be yours to become the trusted guide of an awakened people—only you must hustle a bit. JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. David Lloyd George, M.P.

DEAR CHANCELLOR,—You have had your way and your Insurance Scheme is now in something like working order. The fourpences have poured merrily in to the tune of something like ten millions, and now thousands of trustful contributors are peering wistfully into the mouth of your wonderful machine, praying that the nimble ninepences may come gaily tumbling out. We shall see—what we shall see.

I have never been among those who desire to crab the Act by malicious or factious criticism. I hope the scheme will be given a fair trial and an opportunity to do its best. That it will work grave hardship in hundreds of cases is already patent. That it may prove a boon to many is my earnest hope.

In any case, we admire your dogged pluck.

JOHN BULL.

To Captain Dickinson, "Snowdon Range," Queenstown Harbour.

DEAR CAPTAIN,—Bravo! Seldom have I heard or read of such a feat of seamanship as that which you performed on the homeward voyage of the liner, *Snowdon Range*, now safe in Queenstown Harbour. For days the ship drifted rudderless in a boiling sea, at the mercy of wind and waves. Your supply of coal ran out, and you were compelled to feed your furnaces with wheat and other inflammable cargo. When at last you sighted the s.s. *Welshman*, the weather was so terrific that only with the greatest difficulty could you get a hawser to her decks, and subsequently you had to cut it away, thus sacrificing all hope of succour.

Never once did you falter in your purpose of steering the vessel through storm and peril to harbour and to home. Your splendid example heartened and inspired every man who served you. You have added one more glowing chapter to the heroic annals of the mercantile marine.

JOHN BULL.

To the Borough Surveyor, Ealing.

DEAR SIR,—At the last meeting of the Town Council you reported that you had received an application from Mr. F. Eden for employment in the drawing office; that you had interviewed the applicant; that he was a smart lad; that there was room for additional help in the office, and that the Works Committee recommended that you should be allowed to employ this boy for six months on probation. You did not, however, disclose that the youth was the nephew of the Mayor, Councillor J. G. Eden, J.P., then presiding over the meeting. Nor did you disclose in what circumstances this youth was fathered upon you, though they can now easily be guessed. If a strange lad had applied to you for a place in your office he would almost certainly have been told there was no vacancy, while if you had actually needed additional help you would have formally applied for it. Though it is true that for six months no salary attaches to the appointment, it is not less likely to be true that in six months you will give the youth a glowing testimonial and that a salary will be awarded, while in a few years he will be jumping over everybody else in the place, and pitchforked into every job which is vacant or can be made vacant for him.

Time and time again I have protested against municipal careers being made for the relatives of members of the governing bodies. It is monstrously unfair that the backstairs influence of mayors and aldermen and councillors should make and keep them for their relatives. With this precedent in view, I shall expect the Town Clerk, the Borough Engineer, the Chief Accountant, the Education Secretary and all the other officials of the Ealing Council to find vacancies for the talented sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters, nephews and nieces, of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of your progressive, enlightened, and intellectual suburb; unless, indeed, you should mention to them that you have received an epistle according to John, and that they had better not.

JOHN BULL.

To Messrs. Charles Bromhead and Sons, Ironmongers, Bristol.

GENTLEMEN,—The position of your firm in the recent prosecution of Higgs, Smith, Ellis and Watts for stealing and receiving certain goods and material belonging to you, is not an enviable one. Higgs, Smith and Watts were probably rightly convicted, if heavily punished; Ellis was given the benefit of the doubt, and discharged. But there is such a thing as temptation; and when I read that Higgs at the age of twenty was receiving from you 9s. a week; Smith, who is twenty-five and married, 11s. a week; Ellis, 17s. a week; and that they had to provide their own food, I will not hesitate to say that such wages of starvation are an incitement to dishonesty. That human flesh and blood should be exploited and incited in this conscienceless way, to stuff the pockets of employers of your class, is a burning shame. Can there be a man in all Bristol, worthy of the name, who does not hear it with indignation and despise and condemn it without reserve? If I were a customer of yours I should certainly turn away from you with disgust.

JOHN BULL.

To Judge Amphlett, Birmingham County Court.

DEAR JUDGE,—You are indeed a friend of the poor and needy. During 1907, no less than 700 people were sent to a debtors' prison in your district, and many of them were quite unable to pay, as you would probably be the first to admit. Anyhow, you thought over the iniquity of locking up debtors and thereby preventing them from earning anything for their families—and creditors. Then you refused to make orders except when real means could be proved. The consequence was that only 136 were imprisoned for debt in 1911; actually no more than 40 last year. Evidently, the Shylocks are beginning to realise that they are not very welcome in your Court.

JOHN BULL.

Lord Mayor, Belfast.

Observe Belfast wasn't sufficiently excited on passing Home Rule Bill to smash a single window or even pull the hair of a policeman. Hope this augury of future peace.

BULL.

Mr. Justice Eve, Royal Courts Justice, London.

Afraid fat will be in fire consequent your decision to injunct certain fried fish shop as a nuisance. Confess don't like the smell myself.

BULL.

"Bullets"—the STRAIGHT and Best Judged Competition. See page 142.

POSTING THE LETTER.

BUT WILL IT REACH ITS DESTINATION?

IN THE CONSULTING-ROOM OF DR. BULL.

By WALTER MOORE.

II.—MR. ARTHUR BALFOUR.

What's that? . . . Mr. Arthur Balfour? . . . Show him in. Good evening, Mr. Balfour. . . . Glad to meet you. . . . Take a chair. . . . To what do I owe the honour of this visit? Not to claim my professional services, I trust. . . . Indeed? . . . I'm sorry to hear it. . . . I regret the occasion, but none the less you may depend upon a careful diagnosis of your case. . . . That is so; I specialise in mental diseases—it is perhaps the biggest part of my practice. . . . I can see you are not quite the thing. . . . Just describe your symptoms.

A feeling of general languor? . . . Quite so, quite so. . . . Wandering thoughts? . . . Yes, yes. . . . Black depression and a sense of hopelessness? . . . Dear, dear! Very unpleasant, I'm sure. . . . An inclination to brood, and see the worst side of things? . . . Hum! Trying, very. . . . A tendency to repeat yourself when speaking? . . . Ah! . . . Now I wonder whether you have been indulging in too much golf lately? . . . Are you sure? Because excessive golf, like excessive drinking, brings depression, you know. . . . Well, then it is not that. . . . So we will investigate in other directions. . . . Perhaps you have overtaxed your brain with philosophical research recently, eh? . . . Not touched philosophy for months? . . . Then it can't be *that*. . . . Let me see, you are a bachelor, are you not? . . . Ah, I thought so. . . . Pity! . . . A *great* pity! . . . Er—excuse me—I do not wish to be personal, but—if it is not too late—if you could bring yourself to it—if there is any lady whom you might persuade yourself to care sufficiently for—er—well, I should strongly recommend marriage. . . . No, no! . . . Don't misunderstand me. . . . I am speaking as a physician, *and* a married man. . . . I grant you it would be a drastic remedy, and not free from risks. . . . But have you not yourself noticed that elderly bachelors are invariably the victims of pessimism? . . .

Ah, well, my dear sir, if you won't listen to it, you won't, and there's no more to be said on that point. . . . Now, when did you first begin to notice the symptoms you complain of? . . . A few weeks after resigning the leadership of the Conservative party, eh? . . . Ah! That looks as though your enforced political idleness, or, at least, sudden relinquishing of responsibility, may have had an injurious effect upon your health. . . . Let me see, you were practically forced to resign, were you not? . . . There was a B.M.G. movement set afoot, was there not, by the younger and more irresponsible members of your party, encouraged by the *Pall Mall Gazette*, eh? . . . My *dear* sir! Don't think it for one moment. . . . I am fully aware that your resignation was voluntary and that you have no feeling against those who forced that course upon you. . . . But, nevertheless, an incident of that kind necessarily leaves its mark on a sensitive nature like yours. . . . You find it difficult to keep away from, and painful to revisit, the scene of your former triumphs, do you not? . . . Yes, yes; I understand. . . . It certainly is *not* all well with the Conservative party. Even I can see that. But to you it must be a painful spectacle. You believe you can see the remedy, but your position is such a difficult and delicate one, and you have so much consideration for your nominal leaders that you have, more or less, to suffer in silence. . . . All this cannot but affect your nervous system, causing depression of spirits and other unhealthy symptoms. . . .

Yes, yes! . . . Well, Mr. Balfour, although, as Shakespeare said, one cannot minister to a mind diseased, I can recommend two courses of treatment, either of which would be practically certain to effect a cure in your case. You must either resume the active leadership of your party, or retire absolutely and completely from political life. If you choose the former, you will find that the responsibilities and excitement of active leadership will quickly restore your mental tone. If you prefer to bid farewell to politics, and give yourself up completely to philosophy and golf, your recovery may be more gradual, but it will be sure. But it must be one or the other. Meantime I will make you up a strong tonic.

Good-bye, sir, good-bye! . . . You have all my good wishes.

BREAD UPON THE WATERS.

A SOCIAL STUDY.

By RICHARD MORTON.

A fine, bright spring-like morning in St. James's Park—London knows no fairer scene. The pretty sheet of water gleams in the sunshine; there is just breeze enough to ripple the surface, making the lake appear like a flowing, dancing river.

There are some people lingering on the old wooden footbridge, laughing, joyous folk, young in heart to-day as Spring itself. There is a nurse, fat, stolid, and comfortable. There are her two charges, Miss Bessie and Master Nigel, one about six years old, the other eight.

There are two other children standing near by, watching; Poll, or Polly, and Jim. There is no nurse attendant upon them.

Miss Bessie is warmly wrapped in a white astrakhan coat; she has a thick white serge frock, white gaiters, and pretty brown boots. She has white gloves, and a white fur hat. She is a rosy, pretty child, but looks rather supercilious. She cannot help that, because she has been well brought up.

Master Nigel is clad in stout blue serge, cut sailor-wise. His top-coat, with brass buttons, is a snug one. His gloves are warm, his feet well-shod. He is not a bad-looking boy, but he carries his nose rather too high in the air. It is not his fault; he has been bred to sniff at things considered to be below him. Like Miss Bessie, there is fat on his young limbs; they each advertise comfort and good living.

Poll, the other girl, standing apart because she knows it is not her place to come near, is thin to skinniness. Her legs, like broomsticks, are scarcely covered by her old, worn, wrinkled stockings, much too big for her. Her boots are not worth mentioning. Her skirt is short, skimpy and so thin that when she stands against the sunshine you can see through it, and her poor legs look like an X-ray photograph. She has no coat, only the remains of a shawl round her neck, a cotton blouse, and a broken straw hat. Her face is pinched, white, and not too clean. She keeps her fists doubled up, to warm her fingers. She looks frightened, cowed, but she cannot help that, for it is the effect of her upbringing.

Jim wears more rags than garments, there are some patches, but more holes, in them. His boots let water in at one side, and out at the other. His cap has seen much service; his jacket, what there is of it, is too short for him. He has pinned it across his narrow chest, to keep the wind from finding how little he wears under it. His long, bony arms stick out from the short sleeves, and wrist and knuckles are blue with the cold. He looks starved, and you must not blame him for that; he has been brought up to look starved, and to feel starved.

Miss Bessie has addressed the nurse in her imperious voice. "Give me the bag," she said. There was no "Please, nurse."

Nurse, from under her ample cloak, produces a large paper bag. Miss Bessie takes it, opens it, and picks out a dainty dinner roll. Master Nigel dips into the bag and finds a large piece of beautiful white bread.

Quite unconsciously, Poll and Jim drew near to Miss Bessie and Master Nigel.

"Come away, Miss Bessie," says nurse, immediately; "we will stand further along the bridge." She murmurs something more, and Poll and Jim just catch the words, "shouldn't be allowed in the park."

Miss Bessie looks once at the two children in rags, turns away in haughty indignation, and she and her party place quite a huge space between themselves and the unwanted ones.

Then, standing on the bridge in the sunshine, Miss Bessie and Master Nigel break up bread and rolls into dainty, delicate morsels and cast them on the face of the water, for the ducks.

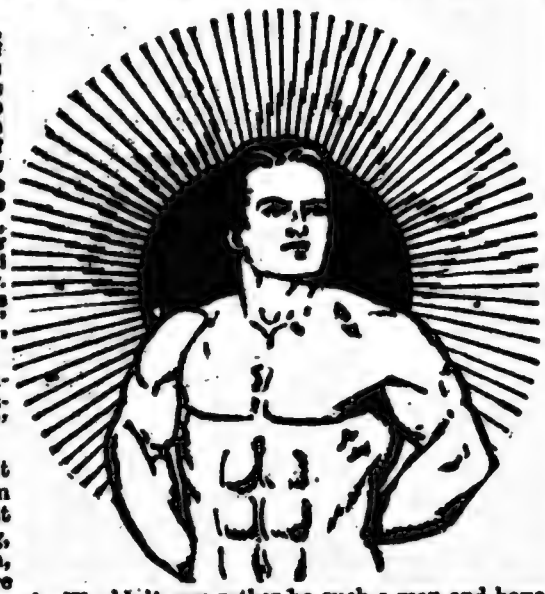
"Crimey!" mutters Jim, "and we ain't tasted as much as a crumb for nigh on two days."

Jim whistles, Poll snivels.

It is not long before nurse leads Miss Bessie and Master Nigel triumphantly away. "It is so nice," nurse thinks "to bring up children to think of dear dumb animals."

How to be Independent for Life. See page 133

"I'M STRONG ONCE MORE."



"I was once weak, thin, emaciated, puny, and colourless. Would you ever believe that I am the same man who came into your office three months ago? Look at me. See how well my muscles are developed. I have strength, vitality, energy, vim, and vigour. That "Ajax" dry-cell battery is a wonder. There is nothing like it to put "steam" and life into one."

Such are the enthusiastic expressions of an "Ajax" patient.

That's what it does. It makes men out of the weakest specimens, big, robust, manly men, the kind that are admired and honoured. Wouldn't you rather be such a man and have people point to you and say, "Isn't he a fine fellow?" than to be a weakling who is trodden upon and despised? You can be if you will let us pour a stream of electric life into your weakened nerve centres while you sleep.

The "AJAX" BATTERY is a dry-cell electric generator. It is always charged, always ready for use. You do not have to be bothered with any acid or other substances in charging it. It gives out its current whenever it is applied to the body. It is endorsed by the highest authorities as the only genuine electric body battery ever invented. The well-known electrical expert, W. Lascelles Scott, Esq., after an exhaustive test, says: "The results have been eminently satisfactory throughout, and, indeed, greatly beyond my initial expectations." This Battery secured the Grand Prix and Gold Medal at the International Exhibition.

A FREE BOOK telling all about the electric cure is sent free upon application. It is entitled "Electricity—The road to Health." It is a volume of 80 pages, which is brimful of the things the true lover of health likes to read. It is well worth two guineas to any sufferer, yet it does not even cost you a penny stamp. Please ask us to send it to you at once. We will give you the names and addresses of hundreds of "AJAX" men—the men who have been cured. We have a book for women also. Call at the office for a free test, if you can, or write at once.

THE BRITISH ELECTRIC INSTITUTE,
(DEPT 41). 25, HOLBORN VIADUCT, LONDON, E.C.

FURNITURE & HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS,

Formerly the Properties of
LADY MEUX, THE LATE LORD LISTER, LADY ALICE HOSTE, & OTHERS.
NOW ON SALE.

THE NEWMAN & OXFORD STREET FURNITURE & ANTIQUE DEPOSITORIES, LTD.

Send for Photographic Catalogue. Sent post free.
Hours of Business: open every day 9 till 8, excepting Saturday, when we close at 1 o'clock.

The following is an abbreviated list of articles now to be seen:—
4 ft. 6 in. Oak Sideboard, £3 12s. 6d.; 6 Dining Chairs and 2 Carving Chairs to match, £4 15s.; Dining Table, 38s. 6d. 12 Overmantels at 17s. 6d.; Large Size well-sprung Chesterfield and 2 Lounge Easies, £7 15s.; 20 Queen Anne Design Dining Room Chairs, Leather Seats, 24s. 6d. each; Massive Elizabethan Design Sideboard, 6 Chairs, and 2 Massive Carving Chairs to match, Heavily Carved Dining Table to match, will accept £17 10s. the suite; 10 ft. Dining Table, 18s. 6d.; Handsome Queen Anne Design Sideboard, £7 15s.

THE BEDROOM FURNITURE comprises 28 Complete Bedrooms.
5 Oak Bedroom Suites with full Chest of Drawers to Dressing Chest, £4 10s.; 4 Oak Bedsteads at 14s. 6d.; 3 Large Size Walnut Bedroom Suites, £6 15s. 3 Large Size Bedsteads with Sanitary Woven Wire Spring Overlay, Bolster and 2 Pillows, £2 12s. 6d. complete; 4 Handsome Sheraton Design Bedroom Suites, £7 15s.; Pair of Twin Bedsteads to Match, 63s.; Large Double Oval Door Bedroom Suite, Sheraton Design, £15 15s.; Reflex Mirrors to Dressing-table. Full-size Bedstead to match, £2 15s.; a very fine Gent's Wardrobe, £6 15s.; Handsome Walnut Dressing Chest and Washstand, £4 10s.; Handsome 6 ft. Louis XV. Bedroom Suite, most exquisite Design, £28; Old Dutch Wardrobe, no reasonable offer refused. 7 ft. Mahogany Wardrobe, fitted two-thirds hanging, one-third drawers and trays, 12 gns.; 3 Large-size Oak Bedroom Suites, £8 15s. Several Chests of Drawers, 18s. 6d.; 6 ft. Inlaid Sheraton design Bedroom Suite, an absolute bargain, 5 gns.; 3 Exquisite Design Inlaid Bedroom Suites, with shaving mirror to washstand, £11; 5 White Enamel Bedroom Suites, £6 10s.; Bedstead to match, 30s.

DRAWING ROOMS:—
Chesterfield, 2 Very Comfortable Lounge Easy Chairs and 4 Solid Mahogany Occasional Chairs all covered in fine art Tapestry, £11 11s., worth double; Louis XV. Design Cabinet, £2 15s.; Another, similar design, £4 15s.; 3 Chesterfield, with adjustable ends, £3 15s.; 10 Lounge Easy Chairs, 17s. 6d.; Settee, 2 Tub Easy Chairs, 4 Occasional Chairs, £6 6s. Upright Piano by Gustav Richter, £18 18s.; Another by Collard and Collard, £16 10s. A very fine selection of Chesterfields and Easy Chairs always in Stock. Also Bed and Table Linen. 50 Carpets from 7s. 6d. Turkey Carpets, all sizes, for £4.

Any Article will be sold separately, and can be selected at once, and can be stored until required free of charge.

All goods delivered and packed free of charge. Special attention given to export orders.

The NEWMAN & OXFORD STREET FURNITURE & ANTIQUE DEPOSITORIES,
92, 93, & 94 NEWMAN STREET, OXFORD STREET, W.

One Door from Oxford St. Three minutes from Tottenham Court Rd. and Oxford Circus, & adjoining all the principal tubes. Telephone: 1307 Central.

IF YOU SUFFER

The common ailments growing out of Indigestion are headaches, dizziness, constipation, biliousness, loss of appetite, sleeplessness, pains in the stomach after eating, windy pressure, palpitation, nervousness. When food in your stomach is not being digested it is certainly doing you harm, because it is fermenting and producing poisonous acids that taint your blood, attack and inflame your nerves, and stagnate your whole system. Mother Seigel's Syrup is made from the curative extracts of certain roots, barks and leaves, which speedily tone up and strengthen all the digestive organs, the stomach, liver, and bowels, and so aid them to do their work properly.

from

INDIGESTION
BILIOUSNESS
CONSTIPATION

take

MOTHER

SEIGEL'S SYRUP

The 2/6 Bottle contains three times the 1/1½ size.
Also in Tablet Form, 2/9.

COUGHED FOR 8 YEARS

Bronchitis and Asthma Cured.

Mrs. Margaret Gray, who lives at Southfields, Longniddry, Haddingtonshire, Scotland, who has recovered health after eight years' suffering from Bronchitis and Asthma, which doctors could not cure, writes:—"My Bronchitis came on with an ordinary cough," she said, "which got worse and worse, and though I had doctors I got no relief. I used to cough till I was utterly exhausted, while Asthma kept choking me up till I could hardly breathe. After eight years of this suffering I got Veno's Lightning Cough Cure, and then I soon felt easier. Veno's brought up the phlegm and gave me instant relief, and in a few weeks my trouble disappeared entirely."

Mrs. Gray, Haddington.

Awarded Grand Prix & Gold Medal Paris Health Exhibition, 1910.

Veno's Lightning Cough Cure is the best Remedy for

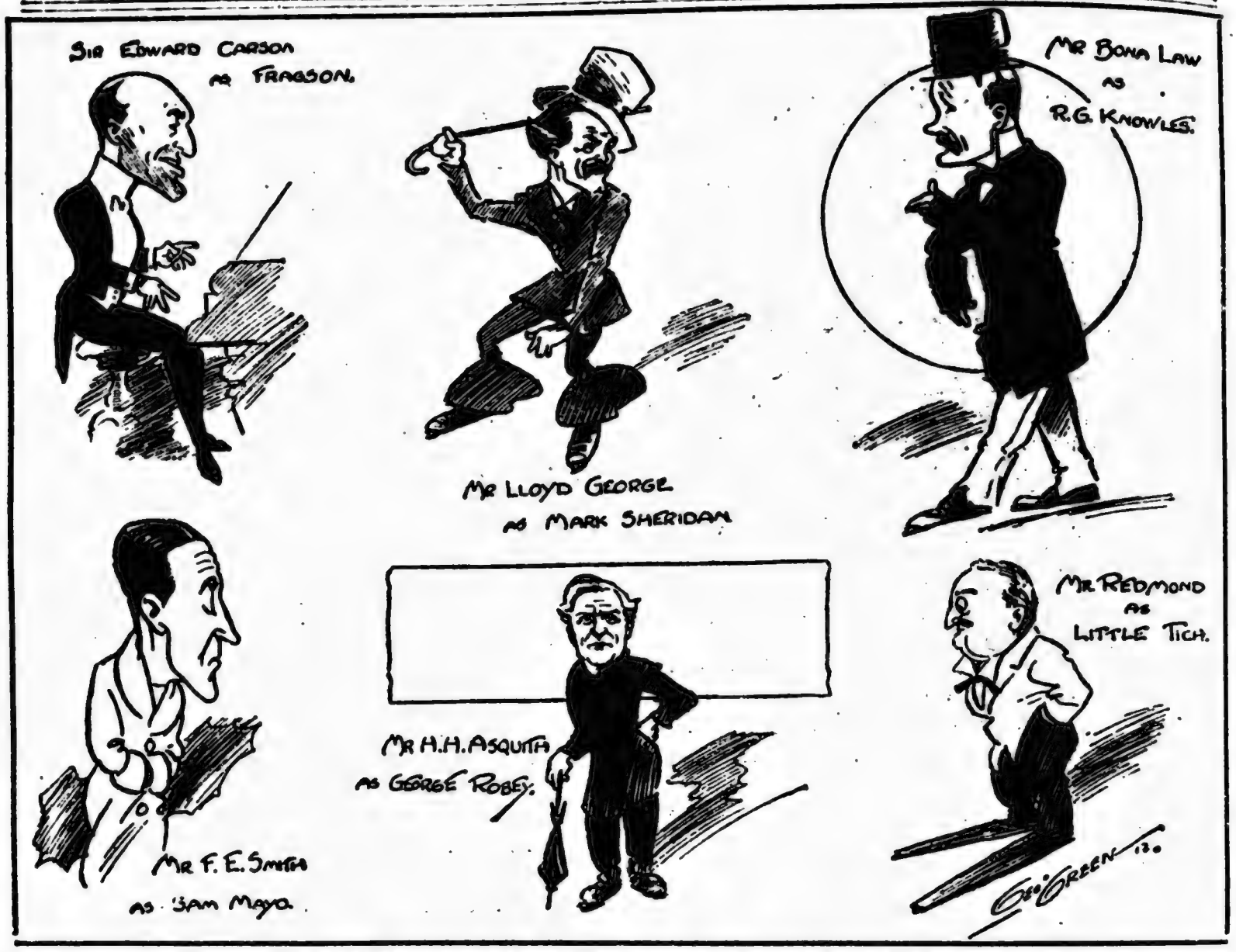
COUGHS AND COLDS.
BRONCHITIS.
INFLUENZA.
LUNG TROUBLES.

9½d. a Bottle.

CHILDREN'S COUGHS.
ASTHMA.
NASAL CATARRH.
BAD BREATHING.

Larger Sizes, 1/1½ and 2/9. Of all Chemists.
A Special Offer for Catarrh Sufferers accompanies each bottle.

VENO'S LIGHTNING COUGH CURE



MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AS MUSIC HALL STARS.

POLICE OVER-ZEAL.

A HACKNEY TRADESMAN VINDICATED.

We heartily sympathise with, and at the same time congratulate, Mr. James Myer Myers, of the Broadway, Hackney, on the tardy but triumphant vindication of his character, in connection with a ridiculous charge of petty theft recently brought against him at the instance of the Newmarket Police. It appears that Mr. Myers, who is a Hackney tradesman of long standing and of high personal character, noticing an umbrella on one of the stands adjoining the racecourse, took possession of it with a view to asking the official at the gate whether anyone had complained of losing it, or, in the alternative, of handing it over. An over-zealous policeman, however, observing what had occurred, immediately arrested Mr. Myers, and subsequently he was detained in custody, although numerous names and addresses of responsible people, prepared to vouch for his respectability and position, were supplied to the police. When the matter came before the magistrate, many witnesses, including public officials and borough councillors, testified that they had known Mr. Myers for over 20 years, and spoke as to his high character. Notwithstanding this, however, the magistrate sent the case for trial, and when it again came on the police made an effort to bolster up the charge by swearing that the defendant had concealed the umbrella under his overcoat by hooking it on to an inside pocket, with the result that only about an inch of it was visible —as a matter of fact, as the Chairman of the Bench observed," it was obvious to everybody that instead of one, seven or eight or even nine or ten inches " would be visible. We are asked whether no compensation is payable to Mr. Myers, not only in respect of the heavy expense to which he has been put, but by way of recompense for the stigma under which he suffered for several months. We are afraid the answer is in the negative. It is an old grievance, and one which calls for legislative action.

RESULT OF "BULLETS" COMPETITION NO. 13.

FORTUNATE NUMBER FOR A HAMPSHIRE LADY.

For the second time, a lady has annexed the premier prize in our "Bullets" Competition, the honour upon this occasion falling to Miss Gascoigne, of Romsey. She tells us that she could scarcely believe her eyes when she beheld the cheque for £200. Strangely enough, only two days earlier a London commercial traveller came into the office in which she is engaged, and was taking out his card when out came a sixpenny P.O., and he mentioned that he had obtained it to enter for the competition. They both agreed that "Bullets" is well-conducted, and that the prize lines have always been good ones.

London 15 June 1912
The London City & Midland Bank Limited
COVENT GARDEN BRANCH, 20 BOW STREET, W.C.
Pay Miss A. L. Gascoigne or Order
Two Hundred Pounds
£200—0—0
PAID

Miss Gascoigne has entered for "Bullets" from No. 1, and in the second competition was awarded a prize of £1. After that came ten weeks of "blanks." An interesting point is that she sent in only two coupons for this competition, posted in time for the last day of entry, and in her hurry wrote down an old address; however, the cheque duly reached her. She has, naturally, received many congratulations, and her great success has made quite a stir in the ancient borough of Romsey.

Every piece of Furniture a bargain, our huge stock being cleared at almost actual cost.

GREAT SALE AT OXFORD STREET

The greatest sale ever held by us in the course of fifty years.

OAK DRESSER
as illustrated
£8 15 0

OVER ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS WORTH—all genuine examples of our fine stock of furniture has during the currency of this sale been written down to almost the actual cost—and all our clients, both past, present and prospective are cordially invited to take full advantage of the very exceptional reductions which are the outstanding feature of our sale.

A visit to our Great Sale will enable you to make a first hand selection from one of the most magnificent and desirable Sale Stocks in London. The very latest and best examples of the furniture maker's craft are ranged side by side in our conveniently situated galleries and every piece or suite shown will tempt you at the price.

Write for our Sale Catalogue to-day.

For the thousands who wish to take advantage of our present sale prices and who, at the same time want further special terms, we offer our

GRADUAL PAYMENTS.

All you are required to pay is a small sum per month or per quarter, arranged so that the complete purchase is made in a term of one, two or three years as may suit your convenience. No interest is charged for this, and it follows that it costs you no more to purchase in this way.

10% ADDITIONAL DISCOUNT FOR CASH.

GENERAL TERMS.

£10	Worth	£0	6	0	per Month
20	,,	0	11	0	,,
30	,,	0	17	0	,,
40	,,	1	5	0	,,
50	,,	1	8	0	,,
100	,,	2	5	0	,,
200	,,	4	10	0	,,
500	,,	11	5	0	,,
1,000	,,	22	10	0	,,

BEDROOM SUITE as illustrated, £10 10 0.

We do not charge interest or require deposit. Country Customers' fares are paid on any order over £:0. Every article purchased is very carefully packed and delivered to any required address free of all cost. Any Carpets or Linos bought will be laid free and schemes for completely furnishing a house in various original and attractive styles will be submitted at your request. £10,000 of Secondhand Furniture always in stock.

HACKNEY FURNISHING Company, Ltd.,

OXFORD ST. SHOWROOMS:
103 & 103a, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.
Telephone: 2335 and 2336 Gerrard. Telegrams: "Openwork, London."
Ramsgate Branch: High Street, Ramsgate.

HACKNEY SHOWROOMS:
1, 2, 3, 4, Town Hall Buildings; 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, The Grove (adjoining), Mare Street, Hackney, London.
Telephone: 34 Dalston and 354 North. Telegrams, "Furniments, London.

HOURS OF BUSINESS: Oxford Street—9 till 8; Saturdays 9 till 1 o'cock. Mare Street—9 till 8; Thursdays 9 till 1 o'clock.

Bull's Eyes.

NOTES OF INTERROGATION :—
Is the Home Rule Bill a "settled" affair?
Is Turkey preparing for another "flutter"?
Isn't Roumania anxious to take a "part"?
Is "Pat-riotism" how they phrase it in Ireland?
Is the Thames Ironworks still an "open" question?
Should a Party "Leader" go only where he is pushed?
Isn't the Territorial "Force" becoming a "weakness"?
Should jurymen work for nothing when M.P.'s are paid?
Isn't the Land tax only "put off" instead of "put on"?
Isn't the "freak" dance a "step" in the wrong direction?
Aren't the doctors rather doubtful about the "medical benefit"?
Do you want a "net" income for LIFE? See page 133.

MUSIC-HALL AND PANTOMIME SONGS :—
"Come Along o' Me."—Suitable for the police.
"I've Got my Eyes on You."—Hope they are both glad ones.
"Ragging the Baby to Sleep."—Even the poor kiddies seem wrapped up in rags.
"We're all Going to the Seaside."—Count us out; we are waiting a few months.
"The Rag-Time Goblin Man."—Gobbling up all the income of English composers.

Sir Ray Lankester cannot discover any purpose served by a chin. The wag.

* * *

Covertcoat won a race at Sandown Park. It was a cut above the other horses.

* * *

"Printer's ink is as black as night," says F. Morton Howard. But much of it is read!

* * *

"Make an order to put me on the 'D' diet," said a prisoner at Hitchin. D— cheek!

* * *

The suffragettes, giving false fire alarms, only succeed in putting the firemen out.

* * *

Blackheath Road Police Station has been burgled. Were the police caught napping?

* * *

Many a man who shivers at the thought of a prison dock finds it too hot when he gets there.

* * *

A new waltz is entitled "The Mystery of Love." All the girls are just dying to learn it.

* * *

"The Son and Heir" is said to be the name of a forthcoming play. It should be a "scream."

* * *

"The Pensioned Ass,"—a headline in an evening paper, does *not* refer to a Government official.

* * *

A Willesden church is selling pencils to raise funds. There are some good points in the scheme.

* * *

Two Missouri men walked eight hundred miles to decide which should marry a girl. Going too far.

* * *

642,079 tons of frozen meat were eaten in the United Kingdom last year. What a lot of cold dinners!

* * *

Parliament is compared to a bankrupt company. Yes, but with a multitude of "official receivers."

* * *

The girl who recently married a "fasting" man showed her pluck; she can't even "feed the brute."

* * *

A Ministry for Aviation will probably be added to the German Cabinet. A chance for rising young men.

* * *

The largest bath-tub in the world is to be built for Mr. Taft. Hasn't he had enough "hot water" lately?

* * *

Sir George Alexander thinks the theatres will never be opened on Sunday. But isn't it the day for good acts?

* * *

An Indian has compiled a calendar up to the year 9999. We are afraid his copyright will run out before then.

* * *

America has started a discussion as to whether Cæsar and Socrates were knock-kneed. We decline to bandy words.

* * *

A weekly paper thinks that the craze for ragtime will be short-lived. But as long as it "goes" it will stay.

A dress which flies off when a single button is pressed has been invented. Yes, but some men are so careless.

* * *

"A gentleman is one who is indoors by 11 p.m.," said a witness at Newcastle. Doesn't say much for the M.P.'s.

* * *

The Exeter luggage porter who has been made a J.P. should be a success; he is used to handling matters of weight.

* * *

Bank-notes amounting to £600 were recently found in an old mattress. Evidently the owner had been rolling in riches.

* * *

A toast list at a recent dinner gave: "Prince Arthur of Connaught, K.C." Short for King's Cousin, we suppose.

* * *

The crew of a wrecked vessel calmly played cards until help came. They meant literally to "shuffle" off this mortal coil.

* * *

Headlines in the *Daily Telegraph*: "Actor as Creator." There are always some actors who think themselves little tin gods.

* * *

A Parisian operatic performer who hummed his part instead of singing it has been ordered to produce notes to the tune of £400.

* * *

A newspaper report emphasises the fact that "fast expresses" run to Birmingham. On some lines we seem to strike only slow ones.

* * *

The sale of insurance stamps has so far produced £10,000,000. This makes Lloyd George the biggest stamp collector in the world.

* * *

An M.P. quarry-owner has secured an order for 1,000,000 tons of slates. Who says that the education campaign isn't coming along?

* * *

Foreigners complain that we Britishers always talk about the weather. So we do. Look at the weather we have to talk about!

* * *

The fact that 1,850,000 divorces have been granted in the last forty years proves that it is easy to get dis-united in the United States.

* * *

"Are men failing to keep pace with women?" asks a contemporary. Yes, even the fastest man has to "run after" women.

* * *

For the average society woman to show her teeth when being photographed is superfluous; she looks "snappy" enough without it.

* * *

Mr. Algernon Ashton says: "I generally boast that I can eat anything." But what he dishes up sometimes takes some swallowing.

* * *

For the benefit of Leeds children, a lady has been installed in the public libraries to tell stories. Many ladies would find it a soft job.

* * *

A writer in a contemporary says he is terribly ashamed at being unable to shoot. He can relieve his conscience cheaply with our "Bullets."

* * *

"Fasting is the best of all physicians," says the vicar of Burtonwood. Then the man who dies of starvation is doctored to death.

* * *

Mrs. Pankhurst says capital punishment itself will not stop the wild women: but she need not worry—they have been given too much rope as it is.

* * *

"Christmas stories are mostly written in the Dog-Days" says "Dagonet." Judging by some specimens—of our contemporaries!—we can quite believe it.

* * *

The *Times* says that ever since the English nation took shape it has been at home on the sea. It is when an Englishman is only half-seas-over that he looks foolish.

* * *

South Wales hairdressers complain that miners cut each other's hair at cheap rates. The remedy is for the hairdressers to go and dig coal under trade union prices.

* * *

We think we are up to date when we say, "One of the nuts," but Victor Hugo wrote in "Les Misérables," "You mustn't say 'head,' but 'nut.'" Racing heads (or nuts), please note.

* * *

It is suggested that the Mint should issue a new eightpenny piece to facilitate the payment of wages less insurance. Better issue a ninepenny piece—and let us have it for fourpence.

You can Win Our £5 a Week for Life. See page 133.

A Pension Prize that CAN be Won!

EVERY WEEK £5 FOR LIFE!

A FOOTBALL PENSION PRIZE THAT CAN BE WON!—We offer a perpetual income of £5 a week, or £260 a year, or more than 14s. for every day of your life, for the correct forecast of **ONLY 20 LEAGUE MATCHES TO BE PLAYED ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8th**, as given on the entrance form below. This is the biggest football prize that has ever been offered by any paper in the world.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO.

All you have to do is to draw your pen plainly through the name of the team you think will lose. If you predict a draw do not cross out either team.

ABANDONED MATCHES MAKE NO DIFFERENCE!

In the First Round of the Cup Ties a very great number of games were abandoned or postponed.

In our Competition it does not matter how many games are abandoned. The great prize will be awarded to the competitor giving the correct results of the matches played to a finish, even though only ten or twelve be decided.

In no circumstances will our £5 a week for life for correct results of the matches played on February 8th be amended to a smaller cash prize.

To the reader from whom we receive an entrance form containing the correct results of the matches played as given on our coupon, we will award the record prize of £5 a week for life.

Should it happen that no entrance form is received containing all the correct results,

£500

in Cash will be awarded IN ANY EVENT to the competitor whose entrance form shows most correct results.

This is purely a skill competition, and competitors are advised to study the football columns of the daily papers. Your football skill and a few strokes of the Pen can win you

£5 A WEEK FOR LIFE!

You can send in as many entries as you like. Any number of entries may be enclosed in the same envelope. Friends can send their entries together in one envelope, but EVERY coupon must be signed in ink by its respective sender.

SEND IN YOUR COUPONS NOW.

The checking of this competition will be a special feature. We have made elaborate arrangements whereby all risk of a winning coupon being overlooked, or the possibility of fraud, is totally eliminated.

Read These Rules Carefully.

1. On the Entrance Form attached, cross out in ink, by running a pen through the names, the teams you think will lose. If you predict a DRAW do not cross out either team.

2. Having done this, write in ink (typewriting or pencilling will not do) your name and address in the space provided, cut out the Entrance Form, and address it to "JOHN BULL," Football Competition Department, 25, Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C., so as to reach us not later than first post Friday, February 7th, but please send early to facilitate the work of examination.

3. The Pension Prize of £5 a week for Life will be awarded to the competitor whose Entry Form contains the correct results of all the matches played on February 8th, as published in the *Sporting Life*.

4. In the event of no Entrance Form containing all correct results, five hundred pounds (£500) will be awarded to the sender of the Entrance Form containing the largest number of accurate forecasts.

5. No responsibility will be accepted by the Editor for the loss or non-delivery of any effort, and no correspondence will be entered into, neither will interviews be granted. But the utmost care will be taken of all coupons received. Individual competitors may send in as many entries as they wish, and any number of entries may be enclosed in the same envelope. Friends may send their entries together in one envelope.

6. The Editor's published decision on all matters relating to this competition is final and legally binding, and competitors may enter only on this understanding.

7. Any effort on which any alteration of any description has been made will be disqualified. Entrance Forms must be cut not torn out.

8. In the event of a tie or ties in this competition the Pension Prize of £5 a week for Life or the Contingent Prize of £500 will be equally divided.

9. No coupon bearing a Scottish address can be accepted.

THE CLOSING DATE IS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7th.

FOR ONLY 20 FOOTBALL FORECASTS.

NO ENTRANCE FEES.

No Goals Required.

You can send in as many coupons as you like.

"JOHN BULL" Entrance Form.

Matches Played Saturday, February 8th.

Cross out—in ink—what you think will be the losing club. For a draw do not cross out either club.

Blackburn Rovers	v.	Manchester United.
Bradford City	v.	Newcastle.
Sheffield Wednesday	v.	Aston Villa.
Tottenham Hotspur	v.	Middlesbrough.
West Bromwich A.	v.	Bolton W.
Woolwich Arsenal	v.	Oldham.
Birmingham	v.	Preston N.E.
Blackpool	v.	Clapton Orient.
Fulham	v.	Barnsley.
Grimsby	v.	Wolverhampton W.
Leeds City	v.	Leicester Fosse.
Notts Forest	v.	Hull City.
Gillingham	v.	Bristol Rovers.
Crystal Palace	v.	Brighton.
Merthyr Town	v.	Coventry.
Northampton	v.	Millwall.
Norwich City	v.	Swindon.
Plymouth Argyll	v.	West Ham.
Southampton	v.	Exeter City.
Stoke	v.	Watford.

I enter JOHN BULL Football Competition in accordance with the rules announced on this page, and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding.

Signed.....

Address.....

.....

After you have filled up your entries for this competition turn to page 142, where you will find particulars of "Hull ts," a simple and attractive Competition which you should not fail to enter. A first prize of £300 in cash is awarded every week, in addition to more than 3,000 cash and other prizes to the value of over £1,150.

John Bull's Letter Bag.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when writing regarding previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag," and* ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. *The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).*

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

CORRESPONDENTS desiring INFORMATION *should place their questions in* CONCISE *form and refrain from sending* VOLUMINOUS DOCUMENTS, *at any rate, until asked for them. The Editor is quite unable to devote the time necessary for perusing and considering the scores of folios which correspondents sometimes send.*

For Financial and Insurance Replies, see page 140.
For Sporting Replies, see page 144.

F. W. C.—Your kind gift of £5 to our "Human Document" fund was duly acknowledged in our issue of December 28th, and the amount apportioned. You would have been answered by post, but gave us no address.

"BRIGHTON."—We don't want anonymous letters about any case, anybody, or anything.

F. E. K. C. (Southsea).—Davis & Co., the advertising pawnbrokers of Denmark Hill, have been repeatedly exposed in the columns of this journal.

G. H. G. (Hendon).—Sorry to hear that your local fire brigade is also a comic affair. Perhaps you could get it an engagement for pantomime.

A. S. (Brixton).—There is nothing extraordinary in the staff rules you send us. After all, employees must be under some sort of control.

J. H. H. P. (Glasgow) points out a printer's error in our recent quotation from Burns.—Oh, for a Business Printer's reader!

E. J. M. (Holloway).—We have frequent complaints against the firm of bonus tea merchants you mention. Have nothing to do with them.

W. B. (Studley).—Have nothing to do with the Waterman Speciality Co., of 16, Great James Street, London, W.C. All they want is your 3s. 6d. for the stylographic pen. As for the envelope addressing—bah!

HARRY K. (Walthamstow).—Certainly, even if as many as twelve of the twenty matches were abandoned we would award the £5 a week for Life on the eight actually played.

"IGNORANT" (India).—Mrs. Seddon has left the country, so we will now give her a rest.

F. C. P. (Leicester) draws our attention to The Cowboys Cinema Plot Company, of 223, Clapham Road, S.W., who, under the heading "Situations Vacant," advertise for beginners for "Cinema Acting, Riding and Dramatic," and reply to applicants with a request that they shall purchase 2s. 3d. worth of picture postcards. A very pretty "plot."

"ECATSUE" (Dorchester).—We are sorry that our paragraph informing you that there is no illegality in a co-respondent in a divorce case being elected an alderman has been used to annoy a certain local gentleman, particularly as he assures us that there were circumstances in the case which, if brought to light, would have put a very different complexion upon it.

"A LAPSED MASON" (New Cross, S.E.) is curious to know why "we went out of our way to apologise for the late Seddon referring to the second Person of the Blessed Trinity." Because we are not a lapsed mason.

"A LEEK READER" has been kind enough to send us a fragment of a recent issue of the *Leek Post*, containing the report of a speech delivered by the prospective Conservative candidate. We have read some of it; and all we can say is that we hope, when he gets into Parliament, he won't have to eat the leek.

J. S. (Chester) requests us to instruct our "Fake-buster to step around to Vernon House, Sicilian Avenue, Southampton Row, W.C., and see what the gallant Captain Rand is peddling." Our "Fake-buster" has already done so—and the answer is "Rubbish."

H. C. C. (Lumbwa, Brit. E. Africa).—Glad our paragraph brought a reply from the dilatory tradesman, and that he will now either return the cash or send the goods. Your "small appreciation" of 5s. we have, as you will see, had much pleasure in allotting to one of our Human Documents.

MRS. E. C. (Birmingham) complains of Cray, Stewart and Co., of 25, Milton Street, E.C., who advertise clothing on the instalment plan but do not deliver until the instalment has been paid. She must read the advertisements more carefully in future.

A. H. (Grays) says he is the *chef* of the s.s. *Narrung*, and wishes to contradict the statement that he kept the passengers without food for forty-eight hours, as reported in the daily press. As a matter of fact, on Christmas Day he gave them a real good feed, terminating with plum pudding in the orside cabin. We hope the port was good. Our statement that they went without a meal for fifty hours was that of some of the passengers themselves, and it will be remembered that no blame was cast upon the *chef*, as he was helpless in the matter, the galley being flooded.

J. S. (Hendon) wants us to award ourselves a biscuit for the recent paragraph commenting upon the Chicago woman who gave birth to three children on three consecutive nights. "J. S." should read us more carefully in the future, as this was a quotation from a Chicago paper on which we commented sarcastically.

W. L. (Norwich) brings to our notice a case of an old man who was brutally assaulted by two ruffians, who were fined only a few shillings. Oh, for a Business Bench!

"CCXIII." (London, S.W.) tells us that after a stay at a convalescent home he is "now feeling 'A1' at present." The local guardians have given him nine letters towards the seventeen requisite to obtain a full set of teeth, and he is looking for work for them as well as himself. If any reader can put the poor man in the way of getting a job, the case is a thoroughly deserving one, and he would be doing a good turn to a "down and out" who has to support a wife and three little children.

"A READER" asks us to "shift the latter-day saints Mormons from Gillingham, as they have made their appearance there." We don't see much good in shifting the reprobates from Gillingham. They will only go elsewhere. What is wanted is to shift them out of the country altogether.

B. W. (Battersea).—That's right! Keep your heart up. This year we hope you will have better health, better luck, and make a hit, a palpable hit, with a "Bullet."

MISS BESSIE LOGAN, the young lady to whom we recently addressed an "Open Letter," promptly sends us a communication which quite supports Mr. Plowden's compliment upon her vigorous thinking and instant action. The law of libel, however, prevents us publishing certain of her comments. Her independent attitude is expressed in the following lines:—

Blind unbelief is sure to err,
And scan their work in vain;
I am my own interpreter,
And I have made it plain.

H. T. (Herne Bay), C. W. G. (Bromley), C. C. (London) and "Greenhouse" (Treherbert), send us similar grumbles regarding the dilatoriness of W. Cooper, Ltd. (761, Old Kent Road). They, too, paid for greenhouses, but though months have transpired since the order, the glass has not been received. By the way, although there is this extraordinary delay, one of our correspondents points out that Cooper is advertising the same goods in his "Annual Clearance Sale"—thus clearly implying that he has the articles in stock.

MESSRS. W. COOPER AND SON, Shop Blind and Revolving Shutter Manufacturers, 512-514, Old Kent Road, tell us that the public have very often thought that they have something to do with William Cooper, Ltd. As such is not the case, they being in no way connected, either in business or privately, they ask us to publish this paragraph, which we have much pleasure in doing.

"SINGER" (Oldham).—The competitor who succeeded in winning our £5 a week for Life would receive his first "fiver" as soon as the result of the competition was decided.

"REGULAR READER" (Doncaster).—If you will send a stamp to our publishers you will receive in return a calendar with an excellent photograph of the Editor upon it.

"Bullets" Prizes AGAIN Increased. See Page 142.

Mr. S. F. Edge writes us a long letter in reply to our recent "Bull's Eye" stating that he was the prospective candidate for Hastings. He says he is not, but his argument on Business Tariff Reform appeals to us, all the same.

J. C. (Falkland Islands) enjoyed our recent Open Letter to the Bishop of those far-off isles. The only town on his island has a thousand inhabitants, with four parsons and a few nuns to look after their spiritual welfare. He hopes the Bishop will not get the £100,000 he wants. He won't.

W. E. V. (Cricklewood) complains that his firm did not give him a Christmas Box this year. What a dry time he must have had, in spite of the weather!

N. S. (Norwich) sent a dollar to McKeans, Universal Mail Order Institute, of Eighth Avenue, New York, but received only a recipe to make baking powder. McKean evidently considers this one of his twenty different ways of making money. We note the London address is 200, Westminster Bridge Road, S.E. where Elmer Knowles, Beatrice Knowles and the Psycho Success Club are housed.

W. J. R. (Eastleigh), referring to our recent comments regarding Mr. S. S. Warren, of Canterbury, who opposed the gift of beer to the workhouse inmates at Christmas, asks whether that gentleman styles himself a Kentish Man or a Man of Kent. We don't know. But we style him a Man of Cant.

J. A. W. (West Brompton) was recently good enough to point out a slight grammatical error in our "Bullets" instructions, for which service we thank him. But we must disappoint his expectations of half-a-crown, as we are not so gluttonous as to award Biscuits to ourselves.

J. S. (Bristol).—We are sorry that our recent criticism of the song you submitted has hurt you, but we are bound to say that our criticism could not have hurt you so much as your song hurt us. Do not be discouraged. You may achieve something even deadlier yet.

"AJAX" (Clapham, S.W.), referring to an article that appeared in our issue of December 14th, writes standing up for Quetta, which, according to him, is nothing short of an earthly paradise. It was Quetta treat to read his eulogistic account of India's Eden.

"A COUNCILLOR" sends us a cryptic postcard bearing the following awe-inspiring message: "Hell of a Row, Portsmouth, was £1,100 Surplus. Dentist wants half. Not enough to go round. Yours sincerely." What on earth does it all mean?

MRS. W. (Cricklewood, N.W.).—If your young friend has dealings with matrimonial agents she is more likely to lose money than to find a husband. She should write to *Mrs. Bull.*

W. H. M. (Eye, Northants.) cannot see how the Enamotype Art Co., of 75, Fetter Lane, E.C., can afford to offer him a life-size portrait for nothing. When he learns what will be the price of the frame his wonder may cease.

"A DEFENDER OF MAFEKING" (Cape Town) thinks Baden Powell was unjustly dealt with by "Safrican" in his recent article on "The Boy Scouts." As we took no part in the famous siege of Mafeking, we decline to adjudicate.

"SPORT" (Glasgow), referring to the recent contest between Freddie Welsh and Matt Wells, in which the success of the first is ascribed by the *Mirror of Life* to his wearing a certain charm, asks what would have been the result if Matt Wells also had worn a duplicate of the mascot, which can be purchased at 1s., post free. The result would, no doubt, have been another shilling in the pocket of the astute vendor of the talisman.

A. E. (Enfield) complains that his son, who recently stopped an Enfield young lady's runaway horse, has not yet received even a "Thank you." On behalf of the, let us say forgetful, young lady in question, we now have pleasure in saying, "Thank you, very much."

"INVALID" (Kingston) and several of his neighbours are annoyed by a heavy motor lorry which travels past their residences at a rate of thirty miles an hour every morning about 3 a.m. Its roar can be heard a quarter of a mile distant and in any case broken slumber is assured. The road is a quiet residental one, with a surface unsuited for heavy motor traffic, but as it runs parallel with the main road can be used by through traffic with little or no loss of time. He enquires if it is any use complaining and, if so, whether to the police or the company owning the lorry. It certainly does seem unreasonable to disturb the quiet of a side thoroughfare in the early hours of the morning, with the main road available, and we suggest that he should communicate with the police, who have special power to regulate such heavy traffic.

"A WORKING WOMAN OF 70" (Brighton) has written to tell us exactly what she thinks of the militant suffragettes. She concludes by saying she hopes "the Dastards will meet with the just Punishment they deserve, and if they refuse the food, they should die the death, as many in our free England do, for the want of it." We like "die the death." We could not have put it better ourselves. We congratulate our correspondent on her vigour at an advanced age.

"X-RAYS" (Stanstead Abbots) is of the opinion that the massage scandals, to which we have from time to time referred, "must be stamped out with a strong hand." Did not he conclude by wishing JOHN BULL and *Mrs. Bull* and all the Little Bulls very many Happy New Years (for which we thank him), we should have ventured to point out that the acrobatic feat urged by him is beyond our personal powers. It may sound primitive, but we still do our stamping out with our feet.

F. G. (Stratford).—The rule which refuses a motor-bus driver's licence to a man who has recently been convicted of drunkenness may or may not be right, but it is a dastardly thing to shoot down a defenceless man on the assumption that, as head of the police, he is personally concerned in refusing it.

"A FITTER" (Farnham).—If our contemporary says that "fitters who used to take from 55s. to 60s. a week are now going home with £8 or £10 in their pockets, while a first-class foreman fitter can make £15 a week," you can take your affidavit it has had special exclusive news from the front.

"COMPULSORY FOOTBALL" (Richmond).—Amazed at your statement that the employees of the Richmond Gasworks have been compelled to join a Works' club on pain of suffering the consequences, though seven men had already joined other clubs, "the result of this being unfair to the seven employees and also to the clubs they have signed for, considering they have to work 54 hours a week for 15s."

"DEVONPORT."—Desire respected that your name shall not go in the paper, as you would "get nine months sure thing," but we cannot answer your riddle "how any ordinary or A.B. can sail a cutter when he is kept coaling or messing around with paint and brass work and sees a boat about once in two years." Better ask Sir Percy Scott.

J. S. (Brixton).—We cannot tell you where the certificate of a marriage contracted between two English persons in Sydney (N.S.W.) can be obtained; but if you write to the Hon. T. A. Coglan, the Agent-General for New South Wales in London, he may help you.

F. H. (Dublin) was good enough to send us the following affecting lines:—

"There was a young dancer, named Polly
Who cried, 'Oh, this Christmas is jolly!'
In a voice that was shrill,
She cried louder still,
When she sat on a large bunch of Holly!"

Strange that a Limerick should come from Dublin.

J. J. (Bangor).—You are quite wrong in thinking that we should bar a competitor in our "Bullets" competition because a prize had already gone to his town. Every "Bullet" is judged absolutely on its merits.

THE Committee of the Wakefield Bachelors' Dance send us a communication imploring us, before awarding them a "Biscuit" for the use of the word "Benedict" for a Bachelors' Ball, to refer to "Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable." Though, so far, no reader has besought us to make the award, it is interesting to observe that Benedick, Shakespeare's character, is defined as "a sworn bachelor, caught in the wiles of matrimony," whereas Benedict is stated to mean "a bachelor, not necessarily one pledged to celibacy, but simply a man of marriageable age."

"FAIRPLAY" (Folkestone) complains that the subscriptions being gathered for the crew of the fishing lugger, the *Moss Rose*, which was lost at sea, in response to Mr. Councillor Jones's appeal for £250, is too much by £242, as the boat was a very old one and was bought for £8. We have been in communication with the Councillor, who assures us that the boat and gear cost £22.4, and we prefer to accept his statement, and wish him every luck in his charitable effort.

"ANXIOUS" (Tottenham) tells us that he also has had experience of Howell and Co., the peculiar publishers, having signed an agreement to take four of their books for £2 10s.—too late coming to the not unusual conclusion that they were not worth that amount. He tells us he has already paid 12s. off the account, and asks, "What would you advise me to do?" We should let the firm Howell sue for their money. County Court judges are beginning to know them.

"DONALD" (Walmer) wants the address of the Secretary of the Calcutta Turf Club. "The Turf Club, Calcutta," is sufficient. Tickets for the club's lottery are not, however, now sold to non-members, and possibly the qualifications for the Club are of a somewhat stringent character.

The writer of "Human Document" CCXXIV.—a Marylebone woman—would be glad to dispose of the perambulator which she bought for her baby who, however, died in the sad circumstances we have detailed. The perambulator is nearly new and cost 25s. The poor woman would be grateful to anybody who would purchase it from her. The address at which it can be seen will be sent to any likely purchaser communicating with the Editor.

(A large number of replies are held over.)

OUR £3 a Week for Life CAN Easily be Won.

John Bull League Notes.

BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY.

THE BIRMINGHAM MEETING.

The President's meeting at the Town Hall on Thursday, the 30th inst., is sure to be a big thing. There has been an enormous demand for tickets, but we intend to keep a large portion of the hall free for the general public. We have arranged to admit to the hall at 7.30 p.m. all those who present a copy of JOHN BULL at the entrance. Mr. C. W. Perkins, the organist to the City Corporation, will give a recital until 7.50 p.m., when the John Bull League Songs will be sung. The proceedings will commence punctually at 8 o'clock.

In response to a large number of requests, there will be on sale in the vestibule of the hall a number of copies of "Bottomley's Book." It is largely autobiographical, containing many interesting stories, told in an inimitable way. Several of his best speeches, made in the House of Commons and elsewhere, are also included. At the same stall, members will be able to secure League Badges and Brooches, at sixpence each, as well as copies of both John Bull League Songs, also at sixpence each.

Mr. Norman Owen, the hardworking Local Secretary, writes to say that he requires just a few more members to act as Stewards at the meeting. Will all those willing to assist in this direction please communicate with him at The Primroses, Four Oaks, at the earliest possible moment?

I shall arrive at the Stork Hotel, Corporation Street, on Monday, the 26th, and shall remain until the meeting is over. I shall be very pleased to meet any friends who wish to see me upon League matters.

Manchester.

The President's visit to Manchester is the topic of conversation, and our Local Secretary tells me he is already being besieged by applications for tickets. "Mr. Bottomley," writes one of our members, "is assured of a representative meeting on February 14th; he is the most popular man outside the House, and all Manchester wish to see him back again." Mr. Wardle, of 5, Woodland Road, Gorton, is the Local Secretary, and he is at present organising his band of Stewards. Will all our willing workers in Manchester get in touch with him at once?

Our Calendar.

Letters of thanks from all parts reach me concerning our Calendar for 1913. I advise readers to send a penny stamp for one, as the supply will not last much longer. It contains an excellent photograph of the President, and is nicely printed in bromide upon an art card. Please address our publishers at 93-94, Long Acre, W.C., and mark the application "Calendar."

The League Report.

Upwards of half a million Reports have been posted to our members during the last few days. I have just a few on hand, and shall be pleased to send a copy to any reader who will send two penny stamps. All communications upon League matters should be addressed to me at 93, Long Acre, W.C.

The John Bull League.

OBJECTS: To Stamp out Cant and Self-Righteousness; to abolish Cranks and Killjoys; to Create a Robust and Self-reliant Public Opinion; and to Promote a Common Sense Business Government for a Common Sense Business People.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

The General Secretary,
93, Long Acre, London, W.C.

Please enrol me as a Member and send me a Membership Badge, for which I enclose P.O. for 6d.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

How to Completely Overcome

TOBACCO HABIT

ATTAINED AT LAST—
A SUCCESSFUL REMEDY.

VICTORY IN 3 DAYS

Read These Testimonials. *They are but a few from Legions.*

NO LONGER WANTS A PIPE.

Mr. H. Denford, Merton, Devon, writes: "I took **your 3 days' C Treatment,** and am very pleased to testify that it **completely took away the craving for tobacco,** and I am also glad to say that I am **feeling in much better health than I have for many a day.** I have never once had a crave for the pipe since the first day I started taking your treatment."

CHEWED AND SMOKED FOR 25 YEARS.

Mr. Wm. Courtney, Mostyn, writes: "I had been a heavy smoker and chewer for 25 years. I am proud to say that since taking your C treatment the craving has entirely gone. I am a cured man with a clear brain and elastic step."

USED TOBACCO FOR 20 YEARS.

Mr. J. C. Guest, King's Norton, writes: "I write to tell you that your remedy for the Tobacco Habit has cured me entirely, and I have **no desire to smoke** at all now. It seems a marvel to give up the habit so easily after being addicted for a good 20 years."

NO LONGER WANTS CIGARETTES.

Mr. H. Thistlethwaite, Burnley, Lancs, writes: "Please accept my sincere thanks for your C Treatment. It has cured me of the Tobacco Habit, and I have no further desire for cigarettes. You can make what use you like of this letter, and you can refer anyone you like to me."

SMOKED 100 CIGARETTES WEEKLY.

Mr. G. Barber, Horsforth, writes: "I feel that I must write and let you know the result of your C Treatment, which has been a success. I used to smoke 100 cigarettes per week, and the craving for them was very great; but before I had finished your three days' treatment I had lost all desire to smoke and I must say that I feel much better now that I no longer smoke."

HEAVY SMOKER OF CIGARETTES.

Mr. J. Sinnett, Redruth, writes: "Your C Treatment is all that you claim it to be. I was a heavy smoker of cigarettes, but I now have no more desire to smoke, and I thank you very much for what your C Treatment has done for me."

LOST ALL DESIRE FOR TOBACCO.

Mrs. R. Roberts, Cinderford, writes: "I am writing to say my husband has entirely lost all desire for tobacco since taking your C Set of Remedies. He has not touched tobacco in any form since he started taking them, and although he had a box of cigars sent to him, he has no desire whatever to smoke them."

GLAD TO SAVE MONEY.

Mr. James Ritchie, Aberdeen, N.B., writes: "Your C Treatment has proved excellent. I have no desire for tobacco now. I am very glad to be rid of the habit, because I can very well do with the money which I used to waste on tobacco."

ALL DESIRE OR CRAVING IS REMOVED FOR Pipe, Cigars, Chewing Tobacco, Cigarettes, Snuff.

I offer a genuine guaranteed remedy for tobacco or snuff habit in 72 hours. It is mild, pleasant, strengthening. Overcomes that peculiar **nervousness** and craving for **cigarettes, cigars, pipe, chewing tobacco,** or **snuff.** Tobacco is **poisonous** and seriously **injures the health** in several ways, causing such disorders as nervous dyspepsia, **sleeplessness,** gas, belching, gnawing, or other uncomfortable sensation in stomach, **constipation, headache, weak eyes, loss of vigour, red spots on skin, throat irritation, catarrh, asthma, bronchitis, heart failure, lung trouble, melancholy,** neurasthenia, loss of memory and will power, impure (poisoned) blood, rheumatism, lumbago, sciatica, neuritis, heartburn, **torpid liver, loss of appetite, bad teeth, foul breath,** lassitude, **lack of ambition,** weakening and falling out of hair, and many other disorders. **It is unsafe and torturing** to attempt to cure yourself of tobacco and snuff habit by suddenly stopping—don't do it. The correct method is to **eliminate the nicotine poison** from the system, strengthen the weakened, irritated membranes, and gradually overcome the craving. You can quickly and easily quit tobacco and enjoy yourself a thousand times better while feeling always in robust health. My FREE book tells all about the **wonderful 8 days' method.** Inexpensive, reliable. **Also Secret Method** for conquering habit in another, **without his knowledge.** Full particulars, including my **Book on Tobacco and Snuff Habit,** mailed in plain wrapper, **free.** Address:

TOBACCO HABIT CONQUERED IN 72 HOURS

FREE

EDWARD J. WOODS, 10, NORFOLK ST., 306 T.I. . LONDON, W.C.

"MY MOTHER WAS A TERRIBLE SUFFERER."

"THE FREE PRESCRIPTION CURED HER."

"My mother thinks I ought to write and acknowledge the value of the free prescription you publish, as it is the only thing that did her any good. She has been a terrible sufferer for years. One doctor calls it Sciatica, another Neuralgia and Neuritis. The headaches were almost unbearable. The relief she obtained from the prescription was immediate, and we think she is now really cured.

"Perhaps I ought to state the prescription just as I cut it from the paper. I was told to ask our chemist for 60 grains of Kephaldol in tablet form. He supplied it at once. Two tablets gave instant relief, and it was not necessary for mother to take them all. Father was bad with Lumbago at the time, and the remaining tablets cured him."—Miss Jenkins, Liverpool.

MARKETING ABILITY.

Generally speaking the delicate work of Marketing Ability can be best left to Hapgoods. One side of our large Organisation is devoted to this work—the other being devoted to the finding of Men of Special Ability for Employers. We deal only with High-Grade Men capable of filling positions carrying salaries of £150 to £1,000 per annum. If you are such a man, write us to-day.

HAPGOODS Ltd., Employment Experts, 167-168, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

Good Sense and Complexions

Mlle. Agnes Desprez.

Even in the search for beauty science is spreading the doctrine of good sense. Instead of clogging their pores with cosmetics, the clever women of to-day are adopting the "absorption method." This means only that they remove, by a gentle process of absorption, the soiled and faded outer complexion, which, for some reason, nature has ceased to throw off in the manner natural to a healthy, youthful skin. Every woman has a lovely complexion just underneath the sallow and stained outer one.

To remove this stifling veil of ugly complexion, smart women simply use a little good, pure jettaline as if it were cold cream. It seems to absorb the devitalized outer complexion and to remove it in tiny, microscopic flakes, in a few days time, thus revealing the beautiful young complexion underneath.

If you wish to prove this for yourself, it is only necessary to get about one ounce of jettaline from your chemist and apply it at night like cold cream. It is not at all unpleasant, and the improvement it develops is enough to make any woman's heart glad.

A chill to-day may mean a cold to-morrow, so

Give him BOVRIL

Take it when you are young—you'll have a good digestion when you're old.

If the mustard pot were as long as this

there might be some excuse to omit the mustard when you dine. But mustard is always waiting within easy reach to add enjoyment to the meal. Many a man who is getting on in years owes his good appetite and sound digestion to the practice of taking mustard in his youth.

Colman's D.S.F. Mustard

S.H.B.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT VACANCIES.

Men and Women. No Exams.

Enrol to-day for rapid and successful course of postal training for Masters, Matrons, Stewards, Relieving Officers, Registrars, Clerks, Assistants; also special Courses for Sanitary Officers, Health Visitors, and Labour Exchange appointments. Board of Trade Managers, Clerks and Clerk-Messengers. Success assured. Write for "College Magazine" free.

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You will find in the "Selfridge" Footwear, variety and character that places it in a class distinctly its own.

Men's substantial WALKING BOOTS to lace. Made in stout Glace Kid, with solid soles, these boots are specially adapted for hard wear. English made throughout and Notable value, a pair. **12/6**

Men's SHOES in great variety, including Brogues made in stout Box Calf and Dark Tan. Men who wear them acknowledge them to be the finest shoe value obtainable. All sizes in stock. A pair. **16/6**

SELFRIDGE & CO., Ltd., Oxford St., W.

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BOOKS TO MEN.

By Sylvanus Stall, D.D.

What a Young Boy Ought to Know.

What a Young Man Ought to Know.

What a Young Husband Ought to Know.

What a Man of 45 Ought to Know.

4s. net per copy, postage 4d. Send for table of contents.

Vir Publishing Co., 2, Imperial Arcade, Ludgate Circus, London, E.C.

CITY NOTES.

[*For Financial and Insurance Letter-Box, see page 140.*]

The Professional Director.

Another ex-servant of the Crown, who "with a view to augmenting his income" became a director of joint-stock companies, "all of which went wrong," has appeared in the Bankruptcy Court. The debtor, Sir Paynton Pigott, M.V.O., was called to the Bar forty years ago, practised for some time and then became Deputy-Chief Constable of Norfolk and subsequently Chief Constable. He retired on a pension three years ago, when, according to the Official Receiver, he must have been owing debts to the extent of £12,000, and in order to retrieve himself he became a company director! "When he was induced to become a director of companies after his retirement," urged the solicitor in the Bankruptcy Court, "he was as a baby in the hands of other men, and was unable to cope with them." Everybody will, of course, sympathise with this ex-barrister, ex-Chief Constable and ex-company director in his manly struggles against the traps laid for him by wicked company promoters! But what about the poor shareholders in the companies.

The Qualifications of a Director.

It is seldom, indeed, that a company director gives himself away so completely as did Sir John Lister-Kaye at the Putumayo Inquiry last week. According to the *Daily Telegraph*, Sir John stated that at the time he became a director he knew nothing about the rubber industry or the conditions in Peru. He was asked to become a director by one of the underwriters, and he personally knew nothing about the Company. Thus are the interests of shareholders safeguarded.

The Public Trustee.

We have on several occasions commented upon the success which has followed the introduction of a Public Trustee into the affairs of the people, and we are pleased to note that, despite the active opposition of the lawyers, Mr. W. C. Baillie-Grohman is persevering with a Bill which is to permit beneficiaries under an authorised Trust, if unanimous, to get rid of the Trustees appointed to administer such Trust, and to replace them by the Public Trustee. We anticipate that, by these means, the would-be fraudulent Trustee may eventually be but a memory.

"False and Fraudulent Representation,"

The Court of Appeal has, at last, by its decision in the Refuge Assurance Company's case heard a few days ago, swept away one of the customary pretences of certain insurance concerns that they are not responsible for the false and fraudulent representations of their agents, to those whom they inveigle into insuring the lives of others, without their knowledge or consent, and, as happened in the case under notice, against the personal protest of the person so "insured." The jury, in the first instance, found a verdict which entitled a Mr. Walter Johnson to the return of the premiums which he had paid for twenty-six years on a policy on the life of his father, who had objected to being insured, and who did not know that a policy had been taken out; but the jury did not impute to the Refuge Company more than "recklessness" in the matter. The Lords Justices have held, however, that "there was abundant evidence of false and fraudulent misrepresentation made by the agent of the company," and they upheld the verdict. Another defence, and one that was shabby in the extreme, which the Company set up, was that of the Statute of Limitations, but this also was swept overboard. We were the first to draw attention to the illegality of these industrial policies, taken out without people's knowledge, authority or consent, and it is satisfactory to find that the Court of Appeal has now confirmed our view.

Pounds and Shillings.

Since the days of the Rubber boom, when a company floated itself on a cable report which was read to convey the fact that it had ten "miles" (of rubber-bearing property), whereas the word used was "mules," no such unfortunate error has occurred until last week, when the papers printed as an item of news from the Northern Blocks Company that the value of the ore in one of its drives had yielded on assay £82, whereas it appears that the value should have been given as 82s., the error being due to the fact that a wrong code word had been used. Whilst we believe that in the instance under notice, the mistake was perfectly *bonâ fide*, we cannot help remembering that we have never heard of an error in cabling which ultimately turned out to have underestimated the value of discoveries.

Re-enter Taverner.

When the notorious William Taverner, the founder of the equally notorious "Old Age Pension Trust," was before Mr. Justice Warrington last December, on an application to commit him for contempt of Court, his counsel informed the learned judge that the man was "absolutely penniless," that he had been "reduced to beggary," and that "the whole business was practically killed." Taverner appears to have recovered himself since then, for we have before us a printed circular, dated December 18th, addressed to "Dear Friend," in which he states that the Trustees had decided "in the best interest of the members and especially the Pensioners" "to at once bring this Trust to an end." At the close of the circular he intimates, however, that "the members are practically UNANIMOUS that that great Christian work must and shall continue," and he promises his "continued unfailing support." A few weeks ago we ventured to suggest that Taverner would return to his old game before long, and he has justified us. He ends his circular with this touching refrain:—

Each sweet Ebenezar, we have in review,
Confirms His good pleasure, to help us right through.

But, from a postscript, we learn that all communications should be accompanied by a stamped reply envelope!

NEW ISSUES.

City of Quebec Loan.

This is an addition of £400,600 to the present indebtedness of Quebec—for water service, roads, bridges, etc., including a *hospital*. And yet we thought Canada was going to give *us* money for our Navy. What a farce the whole thing is. Just imagine a tin-pot city in Canada—with a population of about 80,000, and a total revenue from all services of about £200,000—foisting this loan upon British investors *at par*—with about a couple of millions of debt already existing!

Canadian Southern Railway.

More Canada—and issued at a premium. How they must be laughing at us! What a row there will be when Canada joins America, and leaves the confiding British bondholder to look after himself!

Moline Plow Company.

America this time. An issue of Preference stock.—The Company, we are told, "sells a varied line of agricultural implements and farmers' requisites." It has issued Second Preference stock of $1,500,000 (this issue is $7,500,000), and Common stock of $9,000,000. It may thus be described as also selling a varied line of shares. By the way, is "Plow" American for an agricultural implement?

Agua Santa Coffee Company.

A company formed to acquire and work a coffee plantation in Brazil. Its surroundings appear respectable, and as the issue is underwritten we presume there is money behind it. But it is not an investment for the general public.

Paterson, Laing and Bruce.

Doubtless a sound business, but one or two points occur to us. Why make this further issue of £100,000 Debentures if "the company holds investments in British Guaranteed and other Colonial Government securities, Guaranteed Indian Railway Debenture Stock, Corporation Stocks, and First Mortgage Debenture and other securities" of the "value of £100,000"? Why not sell them, and thus save all the expense of the present issue? And we do not like the auditor's certificate of "trading" profits.

City of Bergen Loan.

Where *are* we getting to? The *City* of Bergen! Population equal to that of Brixton Hill! Canada is bad enough—but Norway, never.

City of Baku Loan.

And now comes Russia—not a very inviting territory in the present condition of affairs in the near East. The issue is of a little over one million sterling of 5 per cent. bonds, being the balance of an authorised loan of nearly three millions. We suggest that it should be offered in the first instance to the Balkan States. Certainly no sane British investor would touch it.

The Tyler Industries.

An offer of 50,000 £1 Preference Shares in a Company engaged in the manufacturing and marketing side of the cinematograph industry, and which is apparently doing a successful and profitable business. The investment appears to be a fairly safe one.

"Bullets," a Winter Pastime with Money in it.

South Africa's New Industry

Oil Within the Empire.

AN IMPERIAL ENTERPRISE.

"We may look forward to an African Petroleum Trade with the World. Great volumes of Oil ooze from the earth in many places, and this wondrous country is just as likely to fill the pockets of its exploiters with millions of money got from Oil as from any other undeveloped product," says a recent Cape Government publication.

The existence of Petroleum in many parts of South Africa is an established fact; but no systematic or scientific attempt has yet been made to prove its existence in payable quantities.

THE CONSOLIDATED OIL FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA, LTD., has recently been formed for the purpose of seriously exploiting, for the first time, these known Oil regions.

The capital of the Company is £250,000 divided into shares of £1 each, and the offices of the Company are at 29 and 30, Old Jewry, London, E.C.

The Company has provided for a working capital of £50,000. It has acquired exclusive rights for working **Oil and all other Minerals**, for a period of ten years, over 150 square miles in the Ceres district, Cape Province—together with the option of acquiring the freehold of the properties at any time during that period.

Eminent Oil Experts have examined the ground and certified to its petroliferous character.

"The Guide to South and East Africa," issued by the Union-Castle Mail Steamship Company, Limited, says:—"The chain of hill-encircled plains near and to the north of "Ceres undoubtedly contain deposits of the mineral (Petroleum) in question. It is only "found in payable quantities in places where the later deposits of rock have remained "practically undisturbed by the intrusion of igneous matter, **conditions which are "fulfilled in this locality.**"

These remarks refer to the identical locality in which the Company's lands are situated.

The operations of the Company are not confined to the Ceres district, and negotiations are in progress for the acquisition of rights in other parts of the Union of South Africa, where indications of Petroleum exist.

The scheme has been received with great cordiality by the Press of South Africa, and by practically the entire Press of the United Kingdom.

The imports of Oil into South Africa exceed £500,000 per annum.

The importance of the industry to both South Africa and the Empire cannot be overrated, Ceres being within 100 miles of South Africa's naval base, Simonstown.

The potentialities of the Company are enormous. According to a leading American authority, its £1 shares may at any moment spring up in value to £200.

The pioneers of the new industry are the **South African Petroleum Exploration Syndicate, Limited**, of 80, Coleman Street, London, E.C., from whom full particulars of the Company and all further information may be obtained.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE LETTER-BOX.

Letters containing enquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, 52, New Broad Street, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

A Postal Order for 1s. must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

WARING AND GILLOW.—C. A. B. (Putney).—We advise you to communicate with the Receiver. What is the amount of your claim?

PETROL COMPANY.—S. S. W. (Dorking).—A pure speculation, and we doubt whether it will really be able to make any headway against the very powerful Combine. We should not care to hold many shares in it.

RHODESIAN SHARES.—SOHO.—You paid much too high a price for these shares, and you should not be so eager to take broker's advice in future. The prospects of the mine depend upon the re-discovery of the reef at depth, and the experts are hopeful on this point. In these circumstances it might be worth while holding the shares a little longer; but you should carefully watch developments.

KURUNEGALA RUBBER COMPANY.—T. W. D. (Denton).—This Company has an issued capital of £38,683, in £1 shares, fully paid. The latest report available stated that tapping operations were in progress, but no returns have been issued yet, and there is no market in the shares. The secretary of the Company is Mr. H. Milner Willis, 24, Walbrook, London, E.C., and you should apply to him for further information.

OIL AND GENERAL SHARE EXCHANGE.—OIL (Omagh).—Perfectly safe to deal with. We have already expressed a very favourable view of the prospects of the Consolidated Oil Fields of South Africa.

FOREIGN PREMIUM BONDS.—P. B. (Hull).—It has been held that it is illegal to sell foreign Premium Bonds in the United Kingdom.—JO'BURG.—Your best course would be to communicate with Messrs. Cunliffe, Russell and Co., 10, Place de la Bourse, Paris, who will keep you informed of the drawings.

ACME MINES, LTD.—ACME.—See our reply to various correspondents in reference to this concern in last week's issue.

AMERICAN MINE.—G. F. U. (Brighton).—We are afraid that your forebodings are justified, and that this mine is a swindle.

LOCAL LOAN SOCIETY.—CAUTIOUS.—After recent unpleasant experiences with such concerns we advise you not to pay your money into this Society. You can get 5 per cent. per annum on much better security—viz., on sound stocks. We shall be pleased to give you a suitable selection, if you wish.

KENT COAL.—E. K. M. (Folkestone).—All the indications appear favourable, but coal is not yet being actually produced on a commercial scale, and until that takes place such shares must necessarily be highly speculative, though, of course, possessing considerable promise.

NATIONAL PENNY BANK.—F. C. (Cairo).—Safe enough apparently, but we should prefer the P.O. Savings Bank.

CANADIAN INSURANCE CO.—BETA.—A.B.C. is a respectable concern, but we much prefer an English office, even if the rate of interest be less.

BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN TOBACCO CO.—HOPE.—We are of the same opinion as our contemporary, and should advise you to realise. You might get a better price in the market.

KAFFIR SHARES.—J. L. J. (Leicester).—We do not care much for Nos. 1 and 2, and think you can do better in, for instance, Randfontein Central and Exploring Land and Minerals. You will have seen that we have repeatedly expressed a favourable opinion of Consolidated Oil Fields of South Africa.

SMALL INVESTMENT.—A. M. (Leyton).—You can do better in Colonial Government Bonds, such as Western Australian 3½ per cent. Bonds at 99.

CANADIAN LAND.—DUBIOUS.—You are right to be dubious about this proposed investment. The unpleasant experience of the Southern Alberta Land Co. should be a sufficient warning to you.

CRESCENT MUTUAL TAXI CAB CO.—F. C. (Euston Road).—We are not aware that the directors have any such power, and you can resist them.

HAYES (UNIVERSAL) PRINTING MACHINERY, LTD.—M. W. J. R. (South Africa).—If you can get such a price as you state for your shares, you would be well advised to take it.

PUBLISHING CO.—INVEST.—We do not advise such an investment. Not only is there no information available as regards the Company, but there is no market for the shares.

MESSINA COPPER MINE.—ANGLO CELT.—The mine is still in the development stage, so that it is not possible at present to fully judge of the prospects. The group at the back of the Company is quite respectable.

OIL SHARES.—J. J. D. (Kolozsvar).—The outlook, of course, depends upon the Balkan crisis. You might put the money into Anglo-Maikops and Maikop Victorys, but better still in Consolidated Oil Fields of South Africa, and lock the shares up for a time. We do not advise speculating on the cover system.

THREE INVESTMENTS.—H. A. C.—We do not advise Nos. 2 and 3. As regards No. 1, we look upon the shares as a promising purchase, especially as one of the properties is already producing.

FOREIGN LOTTERY BONDS.—OXO.—We are not, at present, in a position to recommend any agent dealing in foreign lottery tickets.

CONSOLIDATED OIL FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA.—J. H. S. (London).—We have no hesitation in advising you to make the proposed purchase. We look forward to a big future for the Company.

WINDUS AND CO. (Hamburg).—W. T. S. (Retford).—We have no personal knowledge of the standing of this firm.

ROYAL HUNGARIAN LOTTERY.—F. A. (Ipswich).—We have no personal knowledge of the standing of the firm you mention.

IRISH UNITED ASSURANCE COLLECTING SOCIETY.—E. O.'B. (Monkstown).—The policy you hold is called a "Pure Endowment Policy." It is issued for a term of 8 years, subject to the payment of a weekly premium of 8s., the endowment being £200. In the event of the assured's decease before the policy matures, 75 per cent. only of the premiums are returnable. We are surprised that the Society should receive any support for a policy containing such a provision. Surely the Post Office would have proved a more excellent repository for your savings, with the advantage of enabling you to withdraw the sum deposited at any time, together with accrued interest. You say you have paid in premiums £40, and on applying for a Paid-up Policy or a Surrender Value, the Society declined to meet you in any way. Notwithstanding the absence from the Conditions of any provision to meet such a case as yours, we hope the committee of management will consider your position and make you a grant. We are more than ever convinced that drastic alterations and amendments are required in the law of assurance so far as Friendly Societies and Industrial Assurance Companies are concerned.

ROYAL CO-OPERATIVE COLLECTING SOCIETY, BIRMINGHAM.—G. M. D. (Ynishir).—The written declaration and statements made by a proposer are the basis of the contract, and the conditions of assurance usually provide that a Society is liable to pay the amount assured under the policy only if the answers given and statements made on the proposal form, and the declaration, have been in every way truly and correctly made. Your having incorrectly given the cause of parents' death does not entitle you to ask the Society to cancel the policy and return the premiums. We should recommend you to write and explain that incorrect information was innocently given, and ask whether in the circumstances they are willing to accede to your request.

LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ASSURANCE CO.—C. R. (Kentish Town).—The Bond Certificate having been issued for a fixed term of years, you cannot claim a return of the subscriptions. We observe that the Certificate lapsed in March, 1910. In the circumstances, and having regard to the comparatively large sum paid in, the Company might be willing to revive the Certificate, or, in the alternative, issue a Fully-paid one to cover the amount you have contributed. Write them.

NATIONAL STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CORPORATION.—W. H. T. (St. John's).—In the absence of the policy, we do not know what provision is made, if any, for the issue of a Fully-paid policy, or the payment of a Cash Surrender Value, in the event of the premiums being discontinued. The conditions affecting these two points would influence our judgment as regards the continuance of the policy. The office is of comparatively recent formation, having been established in 1906. The Valuation made at the close of 1910 revealed a small deficiency in the Industrial Branch of £2,676, but we do not attach much importance to this, having regard to the age of the Company and the initial cost of establishing the business. If you are satisfied with the policy we should be inclined to recommend you to maintain the assurance in force.

PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION OF LONDON.—J. E. P. (Hampsthwaite).—We have no reason to doubt the genuineness of the Ballots held by the Association. We believe all the Bonds and Policies drawn entitling to advances "free of interest" are in force at the date of drawing, and that the holders of the lucky numbers which the "wheel of fortune" brings to light receive the benefits specified.—OXO.—A reliable concern.

PEARL LIFE ASSURANCE CO.—ZETLAND.—The policy is in order. It is called a "Funeral Expenses Policy." Condition 10 states that the benefit of it shall not be assignable, and that the sum assured will not be paid to anyone except the proposer or his personal representative. As regards absence of knowledge of the existence of this assurance so far as the assured is concerned, see our answer to "Francis Wimbledon."——A. S. (Oxford).—The letter you enclose demanding payment of the sum mentioned does not enlighten us as to how you became indebted for the amount. Is it alleged to be due for what is called "making good" decrease of debit? If so, we have already given our views in recent answers to correspondents. If the threat to commence legal proceedings against you is persisted in, see your solicitor, who will advise on the points raised by the agreement you held with the Company.——FRANCIS WIMBLEDON.—The policies are legal, provided they were taken up to meet expenses in connection with the death or funeral of the assured. You say these assurances were effected without your father's knowledge. As the law now stands, you have no remedy, and must either continue the premium payments or lapse the policies, in which event all the moneys you have paid would become forfeited to the Company. The conditions do not provide for the issue of Free policies or the payment of a Cash Surrender Value.——D. W. P. (Penrith).—The policy you hold was taken out 28 years ago. Having arranged to go out to Australia, and not wishing to continue the assurance, you applied for a Cash Surrender Value, which has been refused. You are helpless unless the Company will, as "an act of grace," accede to your request.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE CO.—P. L. (Birmingham).—If three years' premiums have been paid on the policy in question, there is a cash surrender value which could be realised. You could have the policy assigned to you, but you should be careful to see that this is done in a proper manner, in order to avoid difficulties later on. ZERO.—The particulars given are vague and it is difficult to advise you as to the position. Parents can legally insure their children, and possibly the policies are infantile ones—in which case the parents would sign for the children. As your friend, however, has known of the matter for such a length of time, we do not think she would be able to recover the premiums paids. J. N. (Edenderry).—You are mistaken. We have never stated that a Free Policy can be obtained after twenty years' payments. A Free Policy for the full amount can only be claimed after twenty-five years' premiums have been paid, and the person assured must be 75 years of age to be able to obtain that. In all other cases the Free Policies are for reduced amounts.

(A number of replies are held over.)

Our Football Competition is a Great Draw. See page 133.

FOOTBALL DRAW.

The drawing was supervised by the Special Repres ntative of "John Bull" and by Mr. W. Lotinga, Editor of "Lotinga's Weekly," and for many years, until recently, "Larry Lynx" of "The People." These gentlemen wrote cow , and took away with them complete lists of the drawn numbers, together with the names and addresses of the winners.

£500 FOR THE WINNER

£100
FOR THE
RUNNER-UP.

£20
EACH FOR THE
DEFEATED
SEMI-FINALISTS.

£10
EACH FOR THE
FOUR DEFEATED
IN
FOURTH ROUND.

£5 each for the eight defeated in third round. £3 each for the sixteen defeated in second round. £2 each for the 32 defeated in 1st round. 100 consolation prizes of £1 each. 400 consolation prizes of 10/- each. Note carefully the series letter and the number of each ticket. Also observe that the full postal address of each winner is given.

NAME OF CLUB.	TICKET NO.	PURCHASER'S NAME AND ADDRESS.
ury	H 51456	H. Fitzgerald, 49, Station Rd., Hanwell, Middlx.
ondon Caledonians	B 14082	H. Harris, 151, Sandhurst Rd., Catford, S.E.
adford City	C 12204	Mrs. G. Foster, 33, Oakley St., Thorpe, nr. Wakefield.
erby	D 7804	G. Gunthorpe, Conservative Club, Sleaford, Lincs
ochdale	B 35908	T. Hatten, 31, Colliers Row, Ebbw Vale, Mon.
ossop	C 33479	H. T. Palmer, 50, Atlantic Rd., Brixton, S.W.
ndsea	M 48136	J. Codd, Alverne Inn, Penzance.
ockport	H 49134	E. Passingham, 11, Idlecombe Rd., Tooting, S.W.
iddlesbro'	B 55863	Miss Lucas, Gildredge Hotel, Eastbourne.
ystal Palace	K 6651	Edith M. Jesliee, Buttington, Welshpool, Mont.
oke	C 29405	E. G. Dismore, 119, Commercial Rd, London, E.
urnley	C 49614	J. Rayner, 28, Northampton St., Canonbury, N.
orthampton	K 46188	Gunner H. N. Purkiss, 38 Mess, R.M.A., H.M.S. *Prince of Wales*, Portsmouth.
lackburn	C 21049	W. Ellis, West Bottom Tavern, Nordland, near Halifax.
outh Shields	D 13040	Miss A. Guselli, 18, Frederick St., Grays Inn Rd.
anchester City	H 8747	J. Birchenough, 191, George St., Compstall, near Stockport.
ircester Fosse	B 56252	A. Beaton, Lusta Waternish, Isle of Skye, N.B.
outhend Un.	A 53749	Mrs. Locke, 7, Cheltenham Pl, Brighton, Sussex.
ristol City	D 10017	F. J. Walker, Myton Lodge, Warwick.
ston Villa	B 17129	J. J. Richards, 9, Shannon Grove, Brixton S.W
irmingham	A 60032	F. Swan, 25, King's Cottages, Moorhall, Harefield
illingham	D 39532	F. J. Stoppani, 73, Farrant Av, Noel Park, Wood Green, N.W.
iverpool	C 13234	Wm. McLennan, Football Arms, Hill Pl, Edin.
alifax	A 32005	Chas. J. Tweed, 272, Brixton Hill, S.W.
adford	C 51179	H. Eatherley, 12, Dean St., Langley Mill, Notts.
anchester Un.	E 29876	G. Singleton, 47, Raglan Rd., Bishopston, Bristol.
underland	A 52799	J. Dixon, 149, Albert St., Millom, Cumberland.
otts County	C 39712	Mrs. S. Atkinson, 2, Melbourne Av. Bowes Pk., N.
illwall	D 53202	Geo. F. M. Nnderson Invergowrie, nr. Lundee.
ueens Park Rgrs.	A 2003	Matt Robson, Victoria House, High St., Langley Moor, Durham.
reston	H 10882	Mrs. G. Langley, Powder Mills, Hounslow, Mdlx.
ainsborough	B 38468	W. J. Hozlewood, 61, Burbury St., Birmingham.
Wolverhampton	E 26408	T. Linehan, Bettyville, Kanturk, Co. Cork Ireland.
Hull	L 47459	A. Morley, 40, Keens Rd., Croydon, Surrey.
Chesterfield	H 21860	J. E. Bishop, 24, Halstow Rd., Kensal Rise, N.W
Leeds City	C 12603	F. Barber, 10, Grainger Rd., Wood Green, N.
Swindon	E 51724	S. Gaythwaite, Greyhound Inn, Cleator Moor.
West Bromwich	D 49287	F. Cowan, c.o. Dickson, 172, Gt. Junction St. Leith, N.B.
Grimsby	A 1328	E.W. Morgan, 45, Dinas Rd., Dinas, Rhondda Valley.
Coventry City	D 7711	A. Wilbie, 133, Marlborough Road, Oxford.
Notts Forest	E 43388	R. Titterton, Chester Rd. Tavern; Macclesfield.
Woolwich Arsenal	C 44464	J. Lawrence, 1, Ricketts St, Glynfach, Porth.
Clapton Orient	E 21343	S. Snelling, 6a, Gipsy Terr., Auckland Hill West Norwood, S.E.
Bristol Rovers	B 1015	R. K. Bateson, Matshead, nr. Garstang, Lanc.
Portsmouth	H 10272	J. Aldridge, High St., Brownhills, nr. Walsall
Blackpool	D 23418	S. B. Lilley, 45, Victoria St., Warwick.
Tottenham	A 52897	P. Wilson, 31, Hargrave Pk. Rd., Up. Holloway
West Ham	C 26796	C. H. Flaxman, 40, Oakley Rd., Islington, N.
Sheffield United	L 15652	R. Saxby, 44, Richmond Rd., Barnsbury, N.
Fulham	D 33935	R. Greenhalf, 41, Manor St., Falkirk, N.B.
Newcastle Un.	H 51383	'Spider,' 39, Fairlawn Av., Chiswick, London, W.
Oldham Ath.	D 50828	C. Spain, 19, St. James' Square, London, S.W.
Bolton	A 47627	H. W. White, Cradge Bank Road, Spalding.
Brighton & H. A.	B 21344	R. Dixon, Tanfield Lea, Tantobie, N.B.
Croydon Common	E 31503	J. C. Hammond, 105, Stockwell Gate, Mansfield.
Barrow	B 18386	G. Purser, Old School House, Harefield, Mdlx.
Norwich City	A 46064	A. Simkin, 17, Trott St., Battersea, S.W.
Everton	A 57412	Mrs. S. H. Brown, 5, Fleming Sq., Maryport, Cumberland.
Plymouth Argyle	H 60518	Wm. McCourty, Prospect View, Leyland Lane, Farrington, near Preston.
Huddersfield	M 50526	J. H. Goodlby, 133, Clapham Rd., Lowestoft.
Barnsley	A 11113	F. Holmes, Tramway Depot, Porth, Glam.
Sheffield Wed.	C 51939	T. Martin, Mooring's Lodge, Sunninghale, Berks.
Reading	D 28361	R. Allison, Sun Inn, Flimby, Maryport.
Southampton	D 60145	R. Horn, Wakefield Lodge, Stony Stratford, Bucks

H. DIAMOND, LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND.

LETTER POSTAGE, 2½d. POSTCARDS, 1d.

£1,150 FOR BULLETS!

THIS WEEK'S PRIZE MONEY AGAIN INCREASED.

This week our Prizes amount to the huge sum of over **£1,150.** In addition to **£300** for our First Prize we are increasing our Second Prize to **£50.**

IMPORTANT.

EVERY COUPON received, whether it arrives early or on the closing day of the Competition, is carefully and conscientiously READ TWICE by our special staff of adjudicators.

First Prize £300

SECOND PRIZE - - - - £50

THIRD PRIZE - - - - £10.

Ten Prizes of £2 10s. each.

IMPORTANT.

Coupons arriving on the date of closing are read with just as much trouble and care as those arriving earlier. "BULLETS" is the ONLY Competition in which every Coupon is READ TWICE.

A Large Number of £1 and 10s. Prizes,

200 Prizes of 7/6,

AND

3,000 OTHER VALUABLE PRIZES.

Bullets can only be constructed from any of these 40 Examples:—

INSURANCE BENEFITS	WHEN SINGLE	MAKES ME ENVIOUS	RICH UNCLE	A WALK OVER
OUR PENSION PRIZE	CABINET MINISTER	AT LAST	SCHOOL TEACHER	TORY PARTY
GAS BILLS	BROKEN HEART	OLD AGE	UNPLEASANT SURPRISE	COMPLETE MYSTERY
RAINY DAY	EARLY BIRD	THE NEEDFUL	UNITED STATES	BOARD OF TRADE
FATHER-IN-LAW	TIT-FOR-TAT	REGRETTABLE INCIDENT	OUR BAZAAR	WORMWOOD SCRUBS
HUMBLE PIE	MOST TRYING	RUDE AWAKENING	A FLAPPER	JUSTICE DARLING
THE PLUMBER	NOT SATISFIED	TOUCH AND GO	GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS	LOVERS
LIFE	BRITISH NATION	IRISH STEW	TALKING SHOP	HALF TIME

HOW TO MAKE YOUR BULLETS.

First choose any of our forty examples. Then give two or three words having some bearing on the example chosen. The FIRST and LAST word selected MUST begin with ANY OF THE LETTERS in the example chosen. If three words are selected any word can be used as the middle word.

For instance, if you take the example "WORMWOOD SCRUBS" and choose the letters "W" and "R" using the word "CONVICTS" as the middle word, you can form the Bullet, "WHERE CONVICTS RESIDE." Or from the example, "OLD AGE," the Bullet "GENERALLY DISADVANTAGEOUS" can be formed. Again, if you take the example "LIFE," and choose the letter "I" as initial for both the first and last word, you can form the Bullet, "IS ALWAYS INTERESTING."

Competitors who have already won any prizes, large or small, in this competition are in no way debarred from winning again.

Competitors can send in two BULLETS on one coupon for sixpence, but if both coupons are used a postal order for one shilling must be sent.

Closing date, Wednesday, Jan. 29 h.

Example _____

Bullet _____

Example _____

Bullet _____

(17) P.O. No. _____

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page, and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding.

Signed _____

Address _____

_____

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

Not more than three words may be used to construct a Bullet.

Closing date, Wednesday, Jan. 29th.

Example _____

Bullet _____

Example _____

Bullet _____

(17) P.O. No. _____

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page, and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding

Signed _____

Address _____

_____

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

If Both Coupons Are Used a Postal Order for 1/- Must Be Sent.

ENVELOPES SHOULD BE MARKED "BULLETS NO. 17," "JOHN BULL," LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.

The ink will not run if the coupon is slightly warmed before being used.

"BULLETS" RULES (*which must be strictly adhered to*).

1. The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the editor, assisted by a competent staff of adjudicators, is the best Bullet received, and the other prizes in order of merit. The right to divide a prize or prizes among two or more competitors is reserved.

2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons on this page, and only two attempts may be written on each coupon.

3. Both coupons may be used, but each coupon must be accompanied by a postal order for 6d., made payable to JOHN BULL, and crossed _____ & Co Competitors must write their names and addresses and the date of _____ sending the order on the back of the postal order, the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Competitors sending more than one coupon may enclose one postal order for the full amount covering the number of their coupons. Stamps will not be accepted.

4. Coupons must not be cut or defaced in any manner, or have portions of another coupon pasted upon them.

5. Entries must reach us not later than the first post on the morning of Wednesday, January 29th.

6. The Editor undertakes that every Bullet reaching him shall receive careful consideration by a competent staff; but the Editor will not hold himself responsible for coupons lost or mislaid.

7. No correspondence can be entered into concerning this competition.

8. The Editor's decision on all matters concerning this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

RESULT OF FOURTEENTH BULLETS COMPETITION.

FIRST PRIZE OF £200:—

Mr. F. TRENERRY, Langley, Bartram Road, Totton, Southampton.

Example:—BIG SURPRISE.
Bullet:—POLICE ADMIT ERROR.

SECOND PRIZE OF £25:—

Mr. E. LLOYD, Preston, Weymouth, Dorset.

Example:—BANK OF ENGLAND.
Bullet:—BOYS THINK DADDY.

THIRD PRIZE OF £10:—

Mr. P. COLE, 28, Worthing Street, Hull.

Example:—MY REGRET.
Bullet:—MILLIONS SQUANDERED. MISSIONARIES.

TEN Prizes of £2 10s. are awarded as follows:

Mr. Wm. BUCHANAN, Bootmaker, East London Street, Edinburgh (BIG SURPRISE—PA'S OPINION RESPECTED); Mr. T. O. CHAPMAN, Rus-in-Urbe, Cardigan Drive, Belfast, Ireland (TAKING PHYSIC—SMALLEST SPOON PREFERRED); Mr. W. T. CONN, 33, Harrowdene Road, Knowle, Bristol (WHY NOT—MAMMOCKS AT WESTMINSTER); Mr. J. BERESFORD, 51, Blakeley Road, Sheffield (TAKING PHYSIC—"CAT" CURES "PROCURERS"); Mr. E. ALLEN, 103, Cooper Street, Leicester (BANANA SKIN—BILLY'S SISTER'S SHARE); Mr. F. DACK, Rose Villas, Stour Street, Harwich, Essex (TAKING PHYSIC—GENERALLY "COMMAND" PERFORMANCE); LUCY COMMINS 14, Park Road, Exeter (SLOW AND SURE—RAINDROP BECOMES RIVER); WM. RUTHERFORD, 18, Sudbury Street, Derby (BIG SURPRISE—BAIDE UNSCREWED EXTREMITY); Mr. DICK DUNNE, 24, Norcott Road, Stoke Newington, N. (BIG SURPRISE—SLAPPED WRONG BACK); Mr. W. C. PLUMMER, 67, Gowrie Road, Lavender Hill, S.W. (CITY WAITRESS—CHATTY NATTY—RATTY).

10 PRIZE WINNERS of £1 EACH.

DARE, THOMAS I., 3, Julia Terrace, Burnham, Somerset.
HODSON, L. J., The Mill House, Robertsbridge, Sussex.
KITSON, K., Colwyn Terrace, Feathersone, Yorks.
PETERS, E. E., Mrs., 166, Guildford Road, Portsmouth.
CARD, F., 3, Crescent Place, Fulham Road, S.W.
STEVENS, H. B., 120, Albany Road, Gillingham, Kent.
DAVIES, R. G., 19, Corporation Road, Newport, Mon.
WARBURTON, A. E., 23, Alfred Rd., Heavygate Rd., Sheffield.
ORGAN, CELIA, Littlehall, Fernleigh Drive, Leigh-on-Sea.
YOUNG, J., 184, Leigh Road, E., Southend-on-Sea.

20 PRIZE WINNERS of 10s. EACH.

ALLEN, J., 14, Cedar Grove, Liverpool.
BROADHEAD, J., Mrs., 53, Kensington Road, Morecambe.
COLLIS, J., 6, Aldwyn Avenue, Tudor Road, Moseley, Birmingham.
DAVIS, W., 1084, Harrow Road, College Park, N.W.
DUTTON, F., Burleydam, Whitchurch, Salop.
EDE, SYDNEY, J. H., Mona Villa, Long Lane, Halesowen, Worcester.
FAGE, ARTHUR A., 20, Larkhall Rise, Clapham, S.W.
FINLEY, F. B., Six Ways, Erdington, Birmingham.
HENDERSON, DONALD, 54, Elm Row, Edinburgh.
HOPLEY, ARTHUR, 35, Bromboro' Road, Lower Bebington, Cheshire.
JACKSON, F. W., 30, Embden Street, Hulme, Manchester.
JONES, HENRY, 60, Edge Lane, Edge Hill, Liverpool.
KING, C. T., 14, Hathaway Road, Croydon, Surrey.
LOCKYER, HARRY, 19, Primrose Mansions, Battersea Park, S.W.
NICHOLLS, K., Mrs., 6, Gillies Street, Kentish Town, N.W.
ROBERTS, J., 22, Bramall Lane, Sheffield.
STILE, H., 7, St. Andrews Road, Exwick, Exeter.
SAWYER, E. B., 16, York Place, Barry, Cardiff.
WALLER, A. L., 148, Clements Road, East Ham, E.
WARP, ALFRED, 26, Glenville Grove, Mornington Road, Lepton, S.E.

LIST OF 200 PRIZE WINNERS OF 7s. 6d. EACH. "BULLETS" COMPETITION NO. 14.

A selection from the List of 3,000 winners of valuable Prizes can be seen in "Mrs. Bull" dated Feb. 1st.

Adams, Miss E., Beethoven House, Charles-st., Rothwell, Northants.
Ames, E., 130, Leighton-rd., West Ealing, Middlesex.
Alsop, Mrs. A., 166, Meadow-lane, Nottingham.
Andrews, J. F., 233, Newport-rd., Middlesbrough, Yorks.
Ashton, E., Fort Rowner, Gosport, Hants.
Astor, E., Caravan, Redbridge, Southampton.
Adams, A., 41, Bartlemas-rd., Oxford.
Atherton, Wm., 130, Watling-rd., Fulwood, Preston, Lancs.
Becks, Mrs. F., Rothwell, Northampton.
Balfour, Miss F. K., 13, Elmwood-rd., Croydon.
Ballard, R., 3, Cormick-st., New Seaham, Co. Durham.
Bamford, Mrs. Mary, 66, Eland-st., New Basford, Nottingham.
Barnard, M., 23, Humber-st., Hull.
Bath, P. H., Pemberton, 184, Vaughan rd., Harrow-on-the-Hill.
Bett, A. E., 48, Longcroft-rd., Camberw'l.
Bevan, P. E., 30, Grenfell-rd., Hereford.
Bidgood, Mrs., 30, Mulgrave-pl., Woolw'h.
Bolton, J. E., 6, Outes-yard, Bowman-lane, Leeds.
Bradley, A. C., 2, Emsworth-rd., Shirley, Southampton.
Breakspear, R., 13, Dickenson-rd., Crouch Hill, N.
Brock, C. W., 68, Bonner-rd., Victoria Park, N.E.
Brown, R., 15, Boswall-st., Lodge-lane, Liverpool.
Buckley, F., 19, Rhodes-st., Halifax.
Burch, S. J., 3, Chant-lane, Reigate.
Buxton-Slater, F., 65, Shorrolds-rd., Walham Green, S.W.
Britt, W., 105, Queen's-rd., New Tredegar, Mon.
Buxton, D., 52, Oxford-rd., Ealing, W.
Barry, T., 82, Faraday-st., Walworth, S.E.
Bennett, J. S., 60, Rutland-st., Leicester.
Brice, C., 14, Vine-row, St. Michael's, Bristol.
Brierley, G. H., Chelston, Torquay.
Campbell, C., 16, Lothian-rd., N. Brixton.
Cartref, S. A., 41, Glebe-rd., Hornsey, N.
Cindwick, J. B., 8, Stainton-rd., Sheffield.
Chapman, T. O., Rus in Urbe, Cardigan drive, Belfast.
Chapman, Cpl. W., Det. A.S.C., Tidworth, Wilts.
Chetwood, A., 28, Claygate-rd., W. Ealing, W.
Clack, P., High-st., Highworth, Swindon.
Clark, A., 13, Melbourne-st., Lr. Broughton, Manchester.
Clark, A., 2, Baguley-st., Miles Hatting, Manchester
Cockerton, H., 32, Cloudesley-sq., Islington, N.
Cole, F. H., 5, Market-st., Tavistock
Cook, T., Wilton-st., Old Basford, Notts.
Cooper, A. J. B., 4, Holderness-ter., King's-rd., Leeds.
Corah, J., 32, Freeth-st., Meadow-lane, Nottingham.
Cottrell, Mrs. Eva, c/o Jack Cottrell, 19, Queen's-sq., High Wycombe.
Cripps, W., Mozart House, Wigan, Lancs.
Crossley, F., 2, Stead-st., Shipley, Yorks.
Crossley, Mrs., 14, Granville-st., Sidcup.
Cunningham, W., Charlton-rd., Tetbury, Glos.
Clarkson, R., 273, Rawlinson-st., Barrow-in-Furness.
Davison, Miss A., Newcastle Cottages, Belmont, Ospringa, Kent.
Dobson, Ethel, 3, Albert-ter., King's Lynn.
Donkin, Pauline M., 218, Warwick-rd., Carlisle.
Downes, Mrs. N., 6, Bankfield-rd, Malin Bridge, Sheffield.
Drew, F. W., Freshwater, Whittingham-rd., Mapperley, Notts.
Duthie, Isabel, 67, Brentham Way Ealing, W.
Edwardes, H. O., 7, St. Nicholas-rd., Barry, Glam.
Evans, C. A., 34, Market-st., Brighton.
Evans, J., 10, Kimberley-rd., Clapham.
Evans, J., 34, Ann-st., Cilfynydd, Pontypridd.
East, Miss Lizzie, 51, High-rd., Wilmington, Dartford, Kent.
Fairbrother, E., 22, Myers-rd. East, Gt. Crosby, Liverpool.
Fleming, A., Clarence Hotel, Mundesley, Norfolk.
Flood, Mrs., 2, Cedar-rd., Sutton, Surrey.
Floyd, H., 1, Hobart-ter., Plymouth
Frost, C. T., Westmoreland House, Cotswold-rd., Bedminster, Bristol.
Fulcher, C., 2 Oakland-ter., Bray, Irel'nd.
Fairer, W., 438, Church-rd, Bolton.
Falconer, J., 30, Earl Grey-st., Edinb'gh.
Gaskin, Alice, 354, Heather-rd., Small Heath, Birmingham.
Genner, J., 50, Princess-st., Littleburn Langley Moor.
Gill, T. W., 34, Pasture-rd., Harehills, Leeds.
Gilliam, H., 57, Calverley-rd., Tunbridge Wells.
Glynn, Miss B., St. Vincent's Home, Pinner, Eastcote.
Gowlee, W. T., 62, Buckingham-rd., Dalston, N.
Gracie, J. C., 80, Canterbury-rd., Dentford, S.E.
Gregg, T., 2, Lime-grove, Oxford-rd., Manchester.
Guinness, P., Cromer, West-grove, Woodford Green, Essex.
Hawes, Mrs. A., 1, Sunnyside-rd., Church-rd, Leyton, E.
Haigh, C. A., 15, Kinsley-pl., Halifax.
Hall, T., 32, Colebrooke-st., Cambuslang, N.B.
Hamilton, F. W., 57, Wilton-rd., Shepherd's Bush, W.
Hand, J., 30, Holly-rd., Ellesmere Port Cheshire.
Harrop, J. J., 10, Church-st., Harwood, nr. Bolton.
Hay, J. W., 17, Everest-rd., Gt. Crosby, Liverpool.
Head, Mrs. A., 165, Walnut Tree-close, Guildford.
Helin, H. E., 13, Chiddingstone-st., Parson's Green, S.W.
Heaton, Mrs. M., 28, Park-lane East, Tipton, Staffs.
Hill, B., 17, Wilmington-rd., Leicester.
Hirst, F. P., 6, Fawnbrake-ave., Herne Hill, S.E.
Holway, A., 29, Fitzroy-st., Totterdown, Bristol.
Hutton, Mrs. H., 17, Balmoral-res., Queen's Park, Glasgow.
Isaac, Frances, 7, Humber-ter., off Earl-st., Grimsby.
Jerome, Miss D., Albion House, Stainsby-rd., Poplar, E.
Johns, R., Compton, Newbury, Berks.
Johnson, W. H., 26, Victoria-pl., Stoke, Devonport.
Jordan, J. A., 316, Lower Broughton rd., The Cliff, Manchester.
Joyce, Miss D. N., 4, Overdale-rd., South Ealing, W.
Jacobs, M. A., 6 Heathfield-rd. Croydon
Kent, Mrs. B., 22, Gatteridge-st., Banbury, Oxon.
King, G. H., 3, Kyle-st., Ayr, Scotland.
King, H. F., 37, Waldeck-ave., Bedford.
Kirk, L., 11, South End-ter., Bramley, Leeds.
Lamont, Mrs. M., 45, W. Holmes-gdns., Musselburgh, Midlothian.
Lewis, F., Sub-Postmaster, Margaret-st., Hull.
Lewerthy, Mrs. J., The "Centre Bank," Fancy Stores, Rochester.
Lampard, G. E., 80, Bramley-rd., North Kensington, W.
Major, B. E., 51, Cheapside, Luton, Beds.
Maple, A. J., 64, Selwyn-rd., Plaistow.
Marshall, F. W., 41, Caird-st., Queen's Park, W.
Marshallsay, W., St. Albans, Williams-ave., Wyke Regis, Weymouth.
Martin, E., 38, Harboro'-rd., Southampt'n
Maitland, S., 2, King William-st., London, E.C.
Marshall, Mrs. J. D., 49, Carngad-ave., Townhead, Glasgow.
Mason, H., 53, Victoria-rd., Chichester.
Maxwell, D. M., 9, Hertford-pl., Crimble-st., Leeds.
Mellor, R., 2, Lamb-st., Hanley, Staffs.
Metcalfe, Cornelius, Woodhall Grange, Calverley, nr. Leeds.
Miller, E. W., Pytches-rd., Woodbridge, Suffolk.
Miller, J., 101, Vallet's-lane, Bolton.
Moore, J., 68, Lowesmoor, Worcester.
Morstatt, C., 25, Lichfield-rd., Boundary-rd., East Ham.
Munday, F. J., 11a, Welbeck-st., Cavendish-sq., W.
Murray, G. H., 104, Bull Close-rd., Norwich, Norfolk.
McMurtrie, T., 20, Downfield-pl., Edinburgh.
Newark, F., 49, Nelson-rd, North, Gt. Yarmouth.
Newbold, M., 74, Grove-rd., Highfields, Leicester.
Newall, H., 11, Bishopsgate, E.C.
Newman, A., Farley Heath, Albury, nr. Guildford, Surrey.
Noole, Miss Mary, 2, Selton Villas, Aintree, Liverpool.
Olley, G., 32, Worthing-rd., Lowestoft.
Osgathorp, W. T., 84, Church-st., Ore, Hastings.
Overend, A., 357, High-rd., Streatham.
Page, H. F., 253, Malpas-rd., Brockley.
Paine, Mrs. N., 147, East Hill, Dartford, Kent.
Palmer, P. W., 139, Ivydale-rd., Waverley Park, S.E.
Palmer, F., The Gardeners Arms, Howleigh, Pitminster, Som.
Partridge, J., 29, Undercliff-rd., Lewisham.
Peacock, Mrs. A., 42, Dore-ave., Manor Park, E.
Pocock, D. E. A., 12, Bolton-gdns., Kensal Rise, N.W.
Poole, A. T., 9, The Terrace, Tiddington, Stratford-on-Avon.
Raujohns, A. H., 1, Cross-st., Whitehaven, Cumberland.
Raine, A. W., 61, Eastborough, Scarborough, Yorks.
Rainsden, G., 3, Lord-st., Leigh, Lancs.
Read, A. G., 4, Clifton-ter., Newstead-rd., Weymouth.
Richardson, G. E., 29a, Plantation-rd., Leighton Buzzard.
Rickard, W., 51, City-rd., Bristol.
Rickards, J. B., 71, Clarendon-rd., Whalley Range, Manchester.
Rigby, Mrs. Martha, 422, New Hall-lane, Preston, Lancs.
Robinson, R. H., 51, Hornsey-rd., Anfield, Liverpool.
Robinson, H. H., 156, Lutterworth-rd., Northampton.
Roche, J. R., The Priory, Acton, W
Rodwell, C., Welburn, York.
Russell, J., 156, Cottrell-rd., Cardiff.
Ryan, Mrs. M., 33, Orlando-rd., Clapham Common, S.W.
Ransom, Mrs. E., Boundstone, Farnham, Surrey.
Savory, M., 26, Wilson Wood-st. Batley, Yorks.
Sharpe, W. V., 33, Parker's row, Dockhead, Bermondsey, S.E.
Simmonds, R., c/o Russell and Sons, Leather Dressers, Hitchin.
Skinner, E., 2, Margaret-pl., Redditch.
Smith, Christie D., Cairndhu, Cardoness-st., Dumfries.
Smith, W. H., 33, May-st., Hamilton.
Smith, C., 54, Kingston-st., Mill-rd., Cambridge.
Smith, E., 19, Circular-rd., Clifton Park, Birkenhead.
Smith, Mrs. J., 5, Rutland-rd., Wanstead, N.E.
Smith, A. G. H., 93, Cambridge-st., Narboro'-rd., Leicester.
Smith, A., Railway House, Llanharan, nr Cardiff.
Somerfield, Mrs. Ada, 7, Farfield, Kidderminster.
Stephens, H. J., 4, Holly-st., Droylsden, Manchester.
Strutt, E., 73, Ingram-rd., Park, Sheffield.
Summers, A. W., 387, Ecclesall-rd., Sheffield.
Sharp, F. J., 61, Hughenden-rd., High Wycombe, Bucks.
Smith, B., 124, Athelstan-rd., Faversham.
Tanner, Mrs. A. M., 26, Grange-rd., Bishop's Stortford.
Tee, H. O., 111, Newland-rd., Worthing, Sussex.
Thompson, F., Church-st., Spondon, Derby.
Thomson, Mrs. A., Sheddens, Clarkston, Glasgow.
Turner, G., 5, Blenheim-sq., Leeds.
Twidale, H., Collingham, nr. Leeds.
Walcott, L., 84, Caversham-rd., Kentish Town, N.W.
Wall, Miss S. A., 4, Cavendish-cres., Bath.
Warburton, Mrs. J. S., 43, Holmecliffe-rd., Bispham, nr. Blackpool.
Warry, J., Park-view, Highbridge-rd., Wylde Green.
Webb, A. J., 250, Beaumont-rd., Plym'th.
White, W. J., Fernleigh, Wade-ave., Littleover, Derby.
Whittington, K., Dynevor-ave., Neath, S. Wales.
Wiffen, Mrs. Edith, Gweek, Bolton-rd., Wealdstone.
Wilde, A. H., 51, Hookstone-rd., Oatlands Mt., Harrogate.
Wilford, G. A. C., 50, Manor-drive, Headingley, Leeds.
Williams, E. H., 27, Preston-rd., North End, Portsmouth.
Wilson, C., 5, St. Helens-st., Nottingh'm.
Wood, O. D., 145, Park-ave., Northfleet, Kent.
Wood, J. E., 58, Holderness-rd., Hull.
Write, N., 3, Worlingham-rd., East Dulwich, S.E.
Webster, Henry, 20, Thackeray-rd., East Ham, E.
Whitney, Mrs. E., Vine Cottage, Hartford, Huntingdon.
Wood, E., 7, Lowestwood-lane, Golcar, nr. Huddersfield
Wyer, Mrs., 40, Grange-st., Brixton pl., Hoxton.
Young, G. E., 51, The Drive, Hove, Sussex.

Complete List of 3,000 Winners of Valuable Prizes can be seen at the "John Bull" Offices.

Racing Notes.

One effect of the alteration of dates at the beginning of the season, referred to last week, will be that the big Lancashire Steeplechase, coming as it does on Easter Monday, at Manchester, will this year precede the Grand National. The alteration in the flat dates will not make so very much difference, for a horse with a chance of winning the Queen's Prize at Kempton could hardly be fancied for the Lincolnshire, but in the jumping events the result of the big Liverpool race often points the way to the Manchester winner, and is a guide for owners, trainers, and the public alike.

Prophetic.

Before these lines appear in print, the important meeting at Manchester will be over, but there is plenty of sport for the remainder of the week, Newbury taking Wednesday and Thursday, and Kempton Park Friday and Saturday. At Newbury, on Wednesday,

BERNSTEIN

should prove a good thing for the Maiden Four-Year-Old Hurdle. He put up a very nice performance at Hurst Park last Friday. The Weyhill Hurdle gives LEESON PARK another chance, and he ought to score, and despite his rise in the weights, BALLYHIST ought to win the Sefton Maiden Steeplechase. On Thursday, BLACK PLUM's turn seems to have arrived in the Winchester Steeplechase, and probably the best thing of the meeting is

BRAXTED

in the valuable Berkshire Maiden Hurdle. CLONDALKIN is about coming to form, and should be supported if seen out for the Ogbourne Steeplechase.

At Kempton, on Friday, WALMER, a previous winner on the course, is worth backing for the Handicap Hurdle. If CLONDALKIN is kept for the Littleton Steeplechase here, he must be followed, as must BALLYHIST if seen out in the Paddock Maiden Steeplechase. On Saturday,

WARFARE

for the Hanworth Park Hurdle looks the best thing. Several of those entered in the Handicap Steeplechase will have been seen out previously, and you will be able to judge their chances for yourselves, but it is very certain that FORKHILL is not out of it. The superior class possessed by POLLEN should enable him to win the Egham Hurdle.

SPORTING REPLIES.

"SPORTING PROFIT" (Birafelden).—C. B. (Hertford) called our attention to a bogus name and address of an alleged winner in his town issued by these people. We have already warned our readers against them.

UNION JACK SWEEPSTAKES.—W. T. (Toronto).—You should communicate with Mr. H. Diamond, whose address is Lucerne, Switzerland, and who will doubtless give you full information. Tickets for the Calcutta Sweepstake are now only issued to members of the Calcutta Turf Club.

BOUVERET TURF CLUB.—TEMPLETON, F. E. C. (Sumatra), A. R. (Camberwell), G. O. (Battersea Park), BONNY, E. R. D. (Northampton), W. R. (St. Albans), AND OTHERS.—We believe the parties behind this concern to be respectable, but know nothing of the methods they propose to adopt in connection with their sweepstakes. Of course, however, there can be no guarantee of any such sum as £100,000 being distributed.

S. H. BERESFORD (Birmingham).—J. H. C. (Leytonstone).—This man is in no way connected with Mr. J. Beresford, of Corporation Street, Birmingham.

ROBERT TYLER (Ewell). THOMAS BATT (London).—J. T. B. (Northampton).—We know nothing of either of these firms.

H. DIAMOND (Lucerne).—CELTIC.—You will be quite safe in dealing with Mr. Diamond.

WHITE, FISHER AND CO.—A. L. (Brighton).—Quite respectable.

SYSTEMS.—DACA.—We publish no racing forecasts other than those which appear in our regular issues, and we know of no book which we can recommend you "dealing with systems."

"JOHN BULL" DERBY SWEEPSTAKE.

Enormous interest has been aroused by the announcement that we are contemplating running a mammoth Derby Sweep, on the lines adopted by the Calcutta Club—only more generous. Should we decide upon the project, every possible step will be taken to keep readers informed. The prizes would certainly not be less than £5,000—probably more—with at least a thousand consolation awards of £1 each, and another £1,000 for charities. The scheme would, of course, have to be worked from abroad—probably Switzerland—and we could not entertain any correspondence upon the subject from our London offices. The tickets would be of the popular price of one shilling—but more anon.

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Football Selections from the Principal Papers.

Matches to be played Saturday, 25th January.

In view of the enormous interest now taken in the competitions conducted by numerous papers, the following table of selections compiled from the principal football authorities will be found to be an extremely useful guide—

	Matches played on ground of first-named team.	Last Year's Result.	JOHN BULL	Lloyd's Weekly.	Umpire.	Sunday Chronicle.	News of the World.	London mail.	Weekly Dispatch.	Other sporting lives.	Football Guide.
SOUTHERN LEAGUE—2ND LEAGUE—1ST LEAGUE	Sheffield Un. v. Bradford C.	Sheffield won	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Manchester U. v. Sheffield Wed.	Manchester won	Draw	Draw	Home	Home	Draw	Draw	Home	Home	Home
	Aston V. v. Everton	Villa won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Bolton W. v. Manchester C.	Bolton won	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home
	Liverpool v. West Brom. A.	Albion won	Home	Draw	Draw	Draw	Draw	Away	Draw	Away	Draw
	Middlesbro' v. Derby C.	No Match	Home	Draw	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Away
	Newcastle Un. v. Woolwich A.	Arsenal won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Notts C. v. Blackburn R.	Rovers won	Away	Away	Away	Away	Away	Away	Away	Draw	Away
	Oldham A. v. Chelsea	No Match	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Tottenham H. v. Sunderland	Draw	Draw	Home	Away	Away	Away	Home	Draw	Draw	Draw
	Barnsley v. Bury	No match	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Bradford v. Grimsby T.	Bradford won	Home	Draw	Home	Away	—	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Burnley v. Notts F.	Burnley won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Fulham v. Blackpool	Fulham won	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Glossop v. Clapton O.	Draw	Home	Away	Draw	Home	Away	Draw	Home	Away	Draw
	Hull C. v. Lincoln C.	No Match	Draw	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Draw	Draw
	Leicester F. v. Huddersfield	Hudd'field won	Draw	Home	Away	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Draw	Home
	Preston N. E. v. Bristol C.	No Match	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Stockport C. v. Birmingham	Stockport won	Away	Away	Away	Away	Away	Away	Away	Home	Draw
	Wolverhampton v. Leeds C.	Wolver'ton. won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Queen's P. R. v. Stoke	Queen's Pk. won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Brentford v. Northampton	Draw	Draw	Away	Away	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Draw	Home
	Millwall A. v. Gillingham	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Bristol R. v. Norwich City	Bristol won	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Swindon v. Reading	Swindon won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Away	Home	Home	Home
	Portsmouth v. Southampton	No Match	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Draw	Draw
	Exeter C. v. Plymouth A.	Plymouth won	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Away	Away	Home	Home
	West Ham U. v. Crystal P.	Palace won	Away	Away	Draw	Away	Draw	Home	Away	Home	Home
	Brighton and H. v. Merthyr T.	No Match	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Coventry C. v. Watford	Coventry won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home

Home signifies first mentioned team to win—**Away** second mentioned team to win.

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A. E. CHAPMAN, Esq., 39, King Edward Road, Balby, Doncaster. December 7th. No. 319255.

E. T. ROBERTS, Esq., Arosfa, Sketty Road, Swansea. January 4th. No. 462043.

CHAS. J. CAMERON, Esq., Theatre Royal, Bournemouth. January 4th. No. 443698.

ALFRED W. DAVIS, Esq., 31, Goldsboro Road, Wandsworth Road, S.W. January 4th. No. 265062.

GEO. ATTWOOD, Esq., 1, Tappesfield Road, Nunhead Green, S.E. January 4th. No. 310351.

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54674	202628	423226	590728	722448
86392	205554	434448	614778	737472
98134	211342	453255	648942	742466
115274	238975	471963	653228	745306
134024	266299	490622	677666	747294
149474	309461	503270	692971	747537
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